



LAKE WORTH INLET  
*Palm Beach Harbor*

## Public Comment Letters

**From:** [Ediereed](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove  
**Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 6:02:08 PM

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Turtle Cove area: Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water. I am strongly against this action. Please do not do it!!!

Edith Reed

**From:** [Mary Person](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [dcaubrey@comcast.net](mailto:dcaubrey@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Please help our Community and the waterway life  
**Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:23:08 PM

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Dear Angela,

Please consider this letter a formal objection to the issuance of the above referenced permit filed by the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management. Please read the previous letter we sent objecting to this project

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This large scale project, involving 640,000 cubic yards of unidentified materials and covering almost forty acres, would spoil a currently pristine part of Lake Worth lagoon. While the alleged purpose of the project is to create sea grass habitat, prior projects in the area have hampered, rather than enhanced the aquatic environment..

This massive fill operation would impede navigation in the area by eliminating a long established navigation channel and force vessels currently moored in the project area to relocate closer to shore. In view of the potential pollution of this tidal estuary sector resulting from contaminated silt sourced from questionable unknown locations, we need to receive confirmation that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared, reviewed and distributed to all appropriate agencies addressing this issue. The proposed fill operation would also likely impair the riparian rights of owners of properties adjacent to both the Lagoon and Little Lake Worth, and this multi-year construction project will be detrimental to property values that have already seen massive declines in recent years.

The county failed to solicit input from any adjacent property owners prior to submitting its permit application. Given the lack of any urgency for completion of this purported remediation project, the Army Corps of Engineers should grant a public hearing to allow all interested parties to express their concerns. In the alternative, the permit should not be issued until the County can affirmatively demonstrate that the potential benefits of this project, if any, outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the resulting impediments to navigation in the area, and the impairment of riparian rights currently enjoyed by waterfront property owners.

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Please note that altering nature and our own environment affects the future of our community and our children, this is a huge responsibility on the adults of today to protect and allow our children to enjoy nature and the wildlife. The changes done in the past to the lake affected the water supply to the State of Florida, let's not make any more mistakes about our future and our own environment.

Thank you,  
Mary Person  
President, OPC Harbor Village

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**From:** [George Langer](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove  
**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2013 10:40:46 AM

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Ms. Dunn,

Please register my absolute objection to the proposed alteration to the Turtle Cove area of Lake Worth lagoon. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water. This would be an unbearable blow to the thousands of families that live bordering that area.

Thank you for your consideration.

George Langer  
North Palm Beach

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robert Hagelstein](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Dredging Project  
**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2013 10:24:34 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn, We understand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning a large dredging project to enlarge and deepen access to the Port Of Palm Beach, and part of its plan is to fill in the northern end of Lake Worth known as Turtle Cove and Peanut Island Shoal with sea grass mitigation. Both of these areas are heavily used by boaters in the area, such as ourselves, and denying us the use of those waters is going to restrict our enjoyment of the local waters -- and there are already a number of restrictions. We thought Peanut Island, itself, was created to accept some of the dredging and we urge you to consider other alternatives.

Sincerely,  
Ann and Robert Hagelstein  
913 Country Club Drive  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408 561-799-6262

**From:** [james stuart](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2013 12:46:54 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I would urge the Corps to reconsider this project. Turtle Cove or the north end of the the Lake Worth Lagoon off from Old Port Cove is one of several sites identified as potential fill sites. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water.

Please, there must be another solution to using this site as a fill area.

Sincerely,

James M. Stuart Jr. and Mary R. Stuart  
1140 Marine Way W. F2L  
Harbor Village Old Port Cove  
North Palm Beach, FL. 33408  
Tele: 203 888-7117



**From:** [dcaubrey@comcast.net](mailto:dcaubrey@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Improvements to the Port Of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2013 3:27:13 PM

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The purpose of this correspondence is to register objection to Army Corps of Engineers' use of a portion of the Lake Worth Lagoon known as Turtle Cove for seagrass mitigation activities.

Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of sea grass habitat. A large portion of this area is located immediately adjacent to three existing communities, Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from many stakeholders the County withdrew its permit application.

While it is unclear that the mitigation proposed by the Army Corps is of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the project raises the same concerns of negative impacts on both the adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.
- The project would greatly reduce the recreational value of the existing lagoon to boaters and fishermen.

We strongly request and urge that no fill be placed in the area of so-called Turtle Cove. We do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.



Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Joan and Darryl Aubrey

**From:** [Ari Dimitris](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** comments on LWL dredging project  
**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2013 8:08:15 PM

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PLEASE, PLEASE don't do any more damage to the ocean and the animals in it! The Everglades was destroyed by engineers who did not consider the wildlife and the consequential damage done by the construction so many years ago. Many species which used to thrive there have been displaced by poor judgements of previous generations. But now we know better and there is no excuse for any construction activity that will harm nature. Especially the cetaceans who have the most advanced brains on the planet. If you listen to or read the book "Whale Warriors" you will learn little bits of information like:

The blasting and noise produced from the construction and military testing causes so much damage to the ears of the whales and dolphins that they often bleed or die. Turtles, whales and many sharks are already endangered species, we don't need to push the limit over the edge and speed up their extinction.

We learn every day about how cures to our illnesses are found from plants and animals in the rainforests and oceans. Why would we even consider doing anything to destroy either?

I have been ill for years and found out today that it was much worst than I realized. To me, the ocean is healing and my form of "therapy." I do take it personally when I hear that anyone will thoughtlessly do harm to something I cherish so much!

All winter I dove at Blue Heron Bridge and noticed how there was so little life, where in the past there was such an abundance. Was it because the lake waters were poured into the Intracoastal waters? I don't know. But I know that your plans will cause severe consequences which will affect the marine life, the divers' enjoyment of the Florida waters, and eventually, Florida tourism.

Please reconsider your plans.

Sincerely,

Ariane Dimitris  
escherandme2001@yahoo.com

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We don't find NUDIBRANCHS. They find us. We merely ACKNOWLEDGE  
them!

**From:** [stablexc](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** turtle cove  
**Date:** Saturday, May 18, 2013 10:55:56 PM

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The USCOE should go ahead with the fill at Turtle Cove. I am sick and tired of the "not in my backyard" environmentalists. The project has been evaluated and well thought-out.

Respectfully.

J. T. Corcia



**From:** [Linda Smithe](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Dredging of the Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 10:10:02 AM

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Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

May 19, 2013

RE: Dredging of the Port of Palm Beach

Dear Ms. Angela Dunn,

I understand the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning a large dredging project to enlarge and deepen access to the Port Of Palm Beach.

Again there is a "mitigation plan" to fill in a number of deep areas to allow sea grass to grow. Turtle Cove or the north end of the Lake Worth Lagoon off from Old Port Cove is one of several sites identified as potential fill sites.

I urge you to consider sending the dredge material to land areas.

Contractors pay for clean dredge material. If the dredge material is too contaminated to be used on land, what is it doing to our estuaries? Perhaps it is best to have the Port of Palm Beach pay to clean it for reuse on land.

Sending the dredge material to other water sites just moves the problem of the intracoastal silting in to other locations which facilitates additional dredging at other locations.

The area being considered has been enjoyed by boaters. Boating has a huge economic impact on the recovering Palm Beach County economy.

Sincerely,

Linda Smithe  
17976 Via Rio  
Jupiter, FL 33458

**From:** [Max Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#); [apb@palmbeachsps.org](mailto:apb@palmbeachsps.org)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove mitigation plan  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 10:46:49 AM

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I must protest the plan to use Turtle Cove as a site for fill from the deepening of the access to the Port of Palm Beach.

I live at Old Port Cove and have a condo overlooking Turtle Cove. I already see sailing boats run aground just outside the marked navigational channels on an almost daily basis. A couple of weeks ago a large motor yacht also ran aground and had to wait for the rising tide to be able to get free. This serious situation will only get worse if you proceed with your plan.

I am not a sailor and am not personally affected, but I witness the distress of recreational boaters on a regular basis.

Max M Cohen, MD

**From:** [michael porter](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove project  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 11:06:56 AM

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I strongly disagree with this project. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water.

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Michael K. Porter  
1200 Marine Way Apt. B204  
North Palm Beach FL 33408

**From:** [michael porter](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Turtle Cove project  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 11:08:33 AM

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I strongly disagree with this project. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water.

Cecile Bolte  
1117 Marine Way, Apt. K1R  
North Palm Beach FL 33408



**From:** [michael porter](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Turtle Cove project  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 11:09:51 AM

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I strongly disagree with this project. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water.

Deborah Porter  
1200 Marine Way, Apt. B204  
North Palm Beach FL 33408

**From:** [ernieemex@aol.com](mailto:ernieemex@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Turtle Cove Restoration Project  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 11:43:16 PM

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2561 Village Boulevard #105  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409  
Telephone 561-688-2655  
Cellular 561-309-6632  
Email [ernieemex@aol.com](mailto:ernieemex@aol.com)  
May 19, 2013

Ms. Angela E. Dunn  
Department of the Army  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville,, FL 32232-0019  
[Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)

Re: Turtle Cove Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Dunn:

Please consider this letter a formal objection to the plan for a large dredging project to enlarge and deepen access to the Port Of Palm Beach which includes a "mitigation plan" to fill in a number of deep areas to allow sea grass to grow. This affects Turtle Cove or the north end of the Lake Worth Lagoon off from Old Port Cove.

This large scale fill project, involving approximately 700,000 cubic yards of sand and covering almost forty acres, would spoil a currently pristine portion of the Lake Worth Lagoon. While the stated purpose of the project is to create seagrass habitat, prior projects in the area have hampered, rather than enhanced, the aquatic environment, and I believe this will also hamper rather than enhance the aquatic environment.

This massive fill operation will impede navigation in the area by eliminating a long-established navigation channel and force the relocation of the vessels currently moored in the project area to relocate closer to shore. The accumulation of silt will have disastrous consequences for Little Lake Worth and for the existing and proposed marinas in the immediate vicinity of the project site, including, but not limited to, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks. The proposed fill operation will impair the riparian rights of owners of properties adjacent to both the Lagoon and Little Lake Worth, and this multi-year construction project will be detrimental to property values that have already seen massive declines in recent years.

Neither the U.S. Army nor Palm Beach County has solicited input from the public or any adjacent property owners. The Army Corps of Engineers should at least grant a public hearing to allow all

interested parties to express their concerns. This project should not begin until you can affirmatively demonstrate to all concerned parties that the potential benefits of this project, if any, outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the resulting impediments to navigation in the area, and the impairment of riparian rights currently enjoyed by waterfront property owners.

Sincerely,

Ernest Berkman

**From:** [BOUCKAERTP@aol.com](mailto:BOUCKAERTP@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** TURTLE COVE PROJECT  
**Date:** Sunday, May 19, 2013 1:46:34 PM

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HELLO. I am an active member of the Palm Beach Sail & Power Squadron as well as the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and a weekly " Radio Watchstander" as Coast Guard Station Lake Worth Inlet. I desire to add my comments and objection to filling in a number of deep areas on the North End of Lake Worth Lagoon. Nature doe NOT require we alter both navigation and sea life as it is today.

I would like to add my support to NOT altering the Turtle Cove Area.  
Thanks for your consideration.

Phil Bouckaert  
12 Ironwood Way North  
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418-5603  
phone: 561-622-4180  
cell: 561-722 5752



**From:** [Theodore Lygas](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Dredging of Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Monday, May 20, 2013 7:49:01 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

As a resident of Old Port Cove and an avid boater and fisherman, I have learned of the USACE plan to dredge the Port of Palm beach. I understand the necessity of keeping our waters with safe and proper navigation and agree with your mission. However, I must object to the Corps consideration to use as one of the dump sites the North end of Lake Worth. Depositing the spoils of the dredging project here would be more financially feasible due to its close proximity to the dredge site, but would be a disaster to this vital estuary and fishery. As holding a 100 ton USCG Master Captain's license, it will hamper navigation in the future, severely impact sea life of the estuary, diminish recreational use and lastly lower property values, all of which the Corps I am sure would not like to accomplish.

Perhaps the spoils would be better deposited elsewhere or such as developing an Artificial reef site just offshore or enhancing and already existing Artificial reef site to enhance sea life and recreational use with no deleterious effects on navigation, estuary sea life and recreation, and property values as is commonly done by the Corps in the Northeast waters.

Respectfully,

Theodore Lygas

**From:** [1robertflucke@comcast.net](mailto:1robertflucke@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Do not use turtle cove recreation area for dredging spoil  
**Date:** Monday, May 20, 2013 10:47:37 AM

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IF IT AINT BROKE, DON'T FIX IT

Robert A FLUCKE

**From:** [mmyszka807@aol.com](mailto:mmyszka807@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Improvements to the Port Of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 8:15:03 AM

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Re: Turtle Cove

**To:** [Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)  
**Subject:** Improvements to the Port Of Palm Beach

The purpose of this correspondence is to register objection to Army Corps of Engineers' use of a portion of the Lake Worth Lagoon known as Turtle Cove for seagrass mitigation activities.

Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of sea grass habitat. A large portion of this area is located immediately adjacent to three existing communities, Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from many stakeholders the County withdrew its permit application.

While it is unclear that the mitigation proposed by the Army Corps is of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the project raises the same concerns of negative impacts on both the adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge

and restore their waterfront.

- The project would greatly reduce the recreational value of the existing lagoon to boaters and fishermen.

We strongly request and urge that no fill be placed in the area of so-called Turtle Cove. We do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Martin and Dorothy Myszka  
1132 Marine Way W.  
NorthPalm Beach FL 33408

**From:** [Karen Kerwin](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Waterway  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 9:18:29 AM

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Dear Ms. Dunn:

Please give thoughtful consideration to filling the Turtle Cove area in Palm Beach County. It would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water. Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Kerwin  
Hobe Sound, Florida



## Domenick Paparone

10989 Jack Nicklaus Drive • North Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 21, 2013

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Ms. Angela Dunn, Environmental Planning Division  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
Email: [Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)

Re: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Impact Statement Lake Worth Inlet,  
Palm Beach Harbor, Palm Beach County, Florida

Ladies & Gentlemen;

Thank you for seeking community input regarding this proposed project.

As a 30+ year resident of North Palm Beach adjacent to the identified preferred mitigation site (so-called "Turtle Cove"), I am writing to express the many concerns that will preclude proceeding with this project.

- The so-called "turtle cove" mitigation site is directly in the path of the well-marked and long established Old Port Cove channel. The fill activity proposed would impede the navigation of this channel to and from adjacent residences and marinas which serve craft up to the 200-ft megayacht. (During construction, there will undoubtedly be noisy barge traffic, to and from the site, as well as other equipment and impediments in place during the actual project time-frame.) All of this significantly impacts navigational access to Lake Worth Lagoon for owner residents, visitors and commercial enterprise. *This is not to the owner residents' benefit.*
- The so-called "turtle cove" mitigation site is in the riparian area of the property owners (including myself) surrounding the north end of Lake Worth (never called "turtle cove" before). These owners strongly objected to this project and the unauthorized and unwanted degradation of our riparian area when it was proposed by Palm Beach County

Environmental Resources Management, and would consider it to be a taking of our riparian rights. *This is not to the owner residents' benefit.*

- According to the Draft EIS, the project involves placement of well over 100,000 cubic yards of fill to create shallow seagrass habitat in a long existing deepwater portion of Lake Worth in front of our homes and business. What analysis of the compatibility of the fill material with respect to the native sediment at the disposal site is proposed? Following placement of the fill material the waves and tides will transport the finer particles alongshore or cross-shore into the nearshore zone; the potential for landward transport of the remaining fill material will pose an adverse impact to the adjacent riparian properties, not only during the actual project timeframe, but beyond. Previous projects in the area have proven this to be the case. The future financial impact to adjacent residents, marinas and any future commercial enterprise in the area to spend money to undo the accumulation of sediment into riparian property from this effort is unknown, and apparently of little concern to anyone but the adjacent property owners. *This is not to the property owners' benefit.*
- Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management has been working on several smaller projects such as The Monastery on Lake Worth Lagoon; Flagler Drive waters south of Southern Boulevard on the west side of the Intracoastal; Lake Worth Golf Course north of Lake Worth Bridge; and West Palm Beach "South Cove" adjacent to Flagler Drive between the bridges. All of these projects have caused shoaling of adjacent navigation facilities. It would stand to reason that there will be similarly adverse results from this project.
- This also raises the issue of turbidity - characterized by a cloudy or muddy appearance caused by suspended solids that decrease the ability of the sunlight to penetrate the water. The most common suspended solids are soil particles and algae. With the amount of fill specified for this project and the length of time it will take to transport and disperse this amount of fill, the turbidity and quality of the waters in Lake Worth Lagoon will be seriously impacted far beyond the project completion. Notwithstanding the use of turbidity curtains and/or a submerged perimeter berm, the migration of soil particles into the Lagoon waters is *guaranteed* to occur.
- The totality of the impact of all these accumulated circumstances will be felt mostly on property values. In my 30+ year residency here I have seen my property taxes increase from approximately \$6,000 per year to over \$25,000. Dealing with and correcting the long-term effects of this project on all of Lake Worth Lagoon properties will cause concessions to be made by current property owners to *our detriment and is an unwarranted expenditure of our tax dollars*.
- In the face of the overwhelming objections to the project - Lost Tree, Old Port Cove Property Owners Association, and Hidden Key indicated that their constituents are unified in their objection - it is felt this effort is not worthwhile *in any form*.

This project has failed to meet the high standard of benefit to the city, county, area residents and private and commercial owners of property adjacent to the site and will be fought by the resident property owners.

Please give your utmost consideration to these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Domenick Paperone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Domenick" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Paperone".

Domenick Paperone  
10989 Jack Nicklaus Drive  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408



**From:** [mcgranj077](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 2:54:40 PM

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Hello Angela,

My name is John McGrane, I live in Old Port Cove Marina Tower and am a member of the North Palm Beach Yacht Club. All the people I have spoken to in Old Port Cove and the NPBYC are strongly opposed to putting dredging fill into the north end of Lake Worth. This area is beautiful to view from the homes and condos that surround the north end of the lake and it is a great area for boating. Please do not ruin this area by putting fill in this part of the lake. Thank You.

From my Android phone on T-Mobile. The first nationwide 4G network.

May 22, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

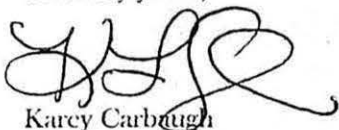
The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,



Karey Carbaugh

**From:** [fenjul@aol.com](mailto:fenjul@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 4:16:20 PM

---

Dear Ms. Dunn. It is my understanding that the Army Corps of Engineers is considering using the north end of the Lake Worth Lagoon (by Old Port Cove) as a fill site for the dredging to be done at the Palm Beach Port.

Please, do not use this area as a fill site. This end of the Lake Worth Lagoon is such a lovely area and is very special to recreational boaters. Further, it would hamper navigation if parts of it were filled in. Please, there are other areas that would be more appropriate for the fill.

Thank you very much.  
Julie Fenix

22 May 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RECEIVED  
5.30.13

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port in order to expand our area economic base. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The loss is marginal to none.

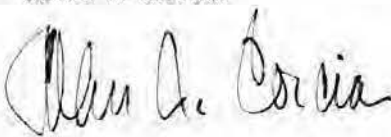
The concept of "not in my backyard" is erroneous.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for only minor impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself.

I believe that any potential benefits of the project will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

John T. Corcia



RECEIVED  
5.30.13

22 May 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn:

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port in order to make for additional commerce and considerably better margin of safety within the Port of Palm Beach. In my opinion, and after reading the draft report, the USACE activities would minimally (if any) impact the environment. Past history of these activities is an excellent predictor of the impact of dredging and spoils placement.

The seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps would be more than the required offset.

Many organizations will lobby "not in my backyard". This is archaic thinking. It's time to move forward and solve problems.

The potential benefits of the project will outweigh any environmental impacts by a wide margin.

Sincerely,



Richard Rizutto  
369 Eagle Drive  
Jupiter, Florida 33477  
561-747-0010

**From:** [Vicki Thomas](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Diving brings a lot of revenue into the area too.  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 11:46:57 AM

---

Isn't there a better way of bringing in commerce without destroying the ecosystem? I have been diving Blue Heron Bridge for 6 years. This is a world renowned diving site. Articles about the site in several dive magazines and word of mouth. It is considered one of the 50 best dive sites in the world. Photographers from all over the world come to photo fragile species that are only found at this site. The jet stream comes closest to this inlet. I have seen more species here than anywhere in the world I have dove. You cannot allow that to be destroyed or disrupted for 2 years.

--

*Concerned diver*

*Vicki*

<:(((((<<

**From:** [Nick](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project, N. Palm Beach  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 12:17:48 PM

---

Dear Ms Dunn

I am writing to voice my objection to the Corp of Engineers dumping dredged material from the Port of Palm Beach into the highly used recreational area bordering Old Port Cove.

I strongly believe that this material, if dumped, hamper navigation, disrupt a popular anchorage, destroy sea life, and destroy the recreational use of this area.

I am sure that there are many more suitable sites available to receive these spoils.

Sincerely,

N.C. Lucas  
1124 Marine Way West, D1L  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
[Nick@Stratford-CT.com](mailto:Nick@Stratford-CT.com)



**From:** [monicaschandel@gmail.com](mailto:monicaschandel@gmail.com) on behalf of [Monica Schandel](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach expansion project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 3:08:45 PM

---

Hi,

I am a concerned citizen and active scuba diver/instructor writing to you about the Port of Palm Beach Expansion Project.

The Port of Palm Beach expansion project will have a major impact on marine life and the water quality for the area, specifically the Blue Heron Bridge dive site. This dive site has been **continually named one of the top ten shore diving sites in the world**. Many individuals come from all over the world as well as locally to dive and snorkel at this site. My boyfriend and I dive there at least once a week. In addition, many instructors, myself included, frequently use this site for teaching open water divers, advanced, navigation, rescue divers, fish identification, underwater photography and underwater naturalist classes, to name a few. The diversity of life in this area is unmatched anywhere else in Florida and throughout the Caribbean.

This project would negatively impact this area and it's fragile life and ecosystem.

The impacts will be felt economically for dive shops, dive instructors and surrounding business that benefit from scuba divers and snorkelers that frequent this dive site. More importantly, the impact will be extremely detrimental to the eco-system and marine life at this site due to the silt and debris that will result.

Please take the time to consider this. I recently was a dive guide for a group from the northeast at the Blue Heron Bridge. Of the divers that were in the group, several had been certified for years and had hundreds of dives all over the world.

Their reaction to this dive site was utter joy and excitement. One lady had never seen a seahorse; we saw 4. No one in the group had seen more than 2 octopus before, and only 2 had seen them during the day; we saw at least 10. We saw jawfish with eggs in their mouths, sharp tail eels, spotted eagle rays, parrotfish, schools of grunts and snappers, batfish, stargazers and searobins. Many of the fish and creatures we saw the collective group had only seen once in their dive careers or never, let alone to see that number of species in a single dive that is easily accessible and inexpensive. Please do not destroy this treasure.

I just returned from Costa Rica and had the opportunity to participate in some of their eco-friendly tourist activities. The industry and government together have recognized the valuable assets they have in their environment and have set up their programs to allow visitors to experience the wonders of the jungle, ocean, rain forest, etc. while minimally impacting the environment so the natural eco-systems thrive. They use sustainable practices. I did not see any trash or negative human impact that I see everywhere in the United States. We must recognize, protect and preserve our natural assets as well.

The impact on sea turtles alone which provide opportunities for continuation of endangered species, education for children and adults, and revenue dollars for the tourist and scuba industry should be enough to halt the disastrous impacts of this project.

Please consider alternatives to this project that will not so negatively impact the surrounding eco-system for the benefit of our generation and future generations to



come. We must be good stewards of our earth not only for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for considering my opinion,

**Monica**

PADI Scuba Instructor

Breathe Sail Dive LLC

330-603-8132

[monica@breathesaildive.com](mailto:monica@breathesaildive.com)

**From:** [Rick Kendrick](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** I object to the Turtle Cove  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:02:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [rick.pdf](#)

---

Dear Angela,

I have attached an objection letter for the Turtle Cove project. We have a very active boating community in Palm Beach County - I have attached photo of us having a raft up in the area this is proposed which is right next to where I live (Old Port Cove - there are thousands of waterfront condos surrounding Little Lake Worth) and two very large marinas with hundreds of boats.

Thanks! Rick

Rick Kendrick  
Chasewood Realty  
561-702-4782 (Phone)  
561-847-4279 (Fax)  
[www.chasewoodrealty.com](http://www.chasewoodrealty.com) (Website)  
[rick@chasewoodrealty.com](mailto:rick@chasewoodrealty.com) (Email)

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May 22, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Kendrick

**From:** [Nelson Chirillo](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Pleas STOP the Port of Palm Beach Expansion Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:04:33 PM

---

Good day,

The adverse affects of this project cannot and should not be tolerated. Blue Heron bridge is a diving treasure we are blessed with. To take it away would affect not only recreational divers and beach goers who enjoy Phil foster for fun, but would also HEAVILY affect a large portion of professional divers who use Phil Foster to train new divers. The life in the ocean and reefs is already on such a steep decline. Phil Foster is a PROTECTED area where juvenile species of all sorts start their life. Most people are amazed at the beauty and wonder that can be found underneath that bridge when they have the pleasure of diving/snorkeling it for the first time. It would be a travesty to ignore the protection of that area and the life found within it for "expansion". The more we expand, the more we continue to promote the deterioration of our livelihoods. Not only do I love the ocean and all it's wonder, but this is how I earn my living and bring joy to others. Please do NOT take that away. It's not "just a bridge" and those aren't "just fish".

We must protect what we love.

Thank you,

Nelson Chirillo

Instructor/divemaster/underwater photographer and videographer, diver.

**From:** [Damien McKinney](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Expansion Project Concern  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:18:29 PM

---

To whom it may concern,  
I'm emailing in regards to the proposed Port of Palm Beach expansion project. I would like to express my dearest concern for the possible negative impact on the local marine habitat that this project may have. Please invoke all due diligence in determining the possible detriment to this valuable resource. In advance I extend my deepest thanks.

Respectfully,

Damien McKinney  
3101 Park Ave  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

**From:** [Katherine Haubert](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Dredging inlet  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 5:34:27 PM

---

Please do not dredge the inlet. Disrupting the natural eco system for economic gain is selfish. Please do not dredge. We have a beautiful area that we need to protect.

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android



**From:** [Thomas Pavlik](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach Inlet  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 6:00:06 PM

---

Angela,

Please do not widen the Palm Beach Inlet or otherwise significantly modify our local waterways. The nature which will be destroyed is too great to allow such a thing to occur. For ourselves and our children please do not let this happen. I spend a great part of my life with my friends exploring these areas.

Thank you

*Tom Pavlik*

Principal Engineer  
EnerFuel Inc.  
1501 Northpoint Parkway, Suite 101  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
561.868.6720 ext. 308  
561.868.6727 fax  
[tom.pavlik@enerfuel.com](mailto:tom.pavlik@enerfuel.com)  
[www.enerfuel.com](http://www.enerfuel.com)

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**From:** [Michael Scott](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Lake Worth Inlet Feasibility Study  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 8:09:00 PM

---

Please, do not allow this project to continue. Doing so will cause irreversible damage to our local, public resources. This project will negatively impact fisherman, scuba divers, and beach-goers alike. Not to mention the harm it will do to the sensitive ecosystem around the Blue Heron Bridge. Just say no to the port expansion!

**From:** [Angela Smith](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Port of Palm Beach expansion; public comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 7:19:14 PM

---

Hi Angela,

Many divers & conservationists here in South FLorida & all over the world are opposing the Port of Palm Beach Expansion.

The Army Corp says blasting & dredging will adversely impact sea turtles, sawfish, seagrass, fishing & diving in the area!

The Blue Heron Bridge dive brings in divers from all over the world for macro photography. There are species living there that live nowhere else in Florida!! This micro environment is crucial to save. The tourism from this dive spot alone puts hundreds of thousands of dollars into Florida's economy. Not to mention the impact on endangered species of sawfish, sea turtles & manatees that make the site their home.

Please make it noted that we oppose this project!

Thanks!!

All the Best,  
Angela

**Angela Smith**  
Volunteer Fundraising Event Organizer  
**SHARK SAVERS**  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
[angelasmith@rcn.com](mailto:angelasmith@rcn.com)  
(954) 789 0762 (Mobile)

**From:** [Dennis](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** turtle cove  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:20:16 PM

---

Date

Ms. Angela Dunn

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PO Box 4970

Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no

longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas and residents at Old Port Cove, Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Sullivan

287 Bougainvillea Dr

Jupiter, fl 33458

**From:** [diverlee@aol.com](mailto:diverlee@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Expansion of the port.  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:24:08 PM

---

Please don't do this! My God don't destroy everything. People come from all over to see and dive this area not to mention the death that will be causes to endangered species.

**"Army Corp says blasting and dredging for the 100 million dollar Port of Palm Beach expansion will adversely impact whales, sea turtles, sawfish, corals, seagrass, fishing and diving.**

The project expected to last two years with construction 24 hours a day, seven days a week will produce silty water and dead sea life in the vicinity of Peanut Island and the Blue Heron Bridge."

Lee Waggener

1549 NE 31St

Pompano Beach, FL

33064

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jack Israel](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E. SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** West Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2013 9:49:39 PM

---

Ms. Dunn:

I'm against any kind of dredging, blasting, drilling, etc. that will effect the sea life at the Blue Heron Bridge. There are rare species in the waters under the bridge. They must be protected.

Thank you,

Jerome W. Israel  
6411 Bay Club Dr. #2  
Ft. Lauderdale, MD 33308



Rudy Schupp  
11874 Lakeshore Place  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 22, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: (Original) Permit App. SAJ-2012-00131(IP-EGR)

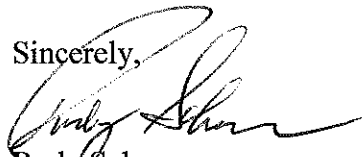
Dear Ms. Dunn:

I understand that the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners through their Department of Environmental Resources Management is once again pursuing the project referred to as Turtle Cove (?) which entails filling some 42 acres of submerged lands in the northern reaches of the Lake Worth Lagoon with muck sediment harvested elsewhere.

Having recreated in this part of the Lake Worth Lagoon since the 1990's and having watched the harmful, unintended impact of a similar project to place fill in front of the North Palm beach Monastery wall I urge you to decline this permit. The "Monastery" project negatively impacted the fish population, migrated silt into the navigable area known as the Little Lake Worth Bridge and canal, reducing access and recreation. Similar fill work was completed in the Munyon Island area just south of the new proposed fill area and those sands reduced the navigable waters in that area reducing the opportunity for recreation and the ease of navigation. Already the former deeper water fishery in these areas has been compromised by these fill projects.

I am opposed to this project and am available for any discussions where my views would be welcomed.

Sincerely,



Rudy Schupp

**From:** [Dotty LeVally](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:02:54 AM

---

PLEASE do not use this area in North Palm Beach. Fill in this area will hamper navigation, destroy sea life and destroy the recreational use of this body of water. There are plenty of other areas to put what is being dredged to deepen the access to the Port of Palm Beach!! Let the Lake Worth Lagoon alone.  
Dotty LeVally, Treas.  
North Palm Beach Yacht Club

**From:** [Dotty LeVally](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 10:02:54 AM

---

PLEASE do not use this area in North Palm Beach. Fill in this area will hamper navigation, destroy sea life and destroy the recreational use of this body of water. There are plenty of other areas to put what is being dredged to deepen the access to the Port of Palm Beach!! Let the Lake Worth Lagoon alone.  
Dotty LeVally, Treas.  
North Palm Beach Yacht Club

**From:** [James White](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment on Port of Palm Beach Expansion Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 1:29:01 PM

---

Dear Ms. Dunn,

Please allow this email to act as my public comment that the Port of Palm Beach Expansion Project should not be allowed to proceed considering all of the known hazards (direct and indirect) to endangered species in the vicinity of the proposed project. Additionally, this project will directly affect my enjoyment of diving around the Blue Heron Bridge by silting up the water and reducing water clarity. I regularly dive at the Blue Heron Bridge and this project would effectively remove this diving site from my list.

Sincerely,  
James R. White  
P.O. Box 14837  
Bradenton, FL 34280  
(941) 705-7585

**From:** [Steve](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** port of palm beach expansion project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 2:36:46 PM

---

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing to comment on the port of Palm Beach expansion project and its adverse effect on the surrounding marine life and marine environment. The assessment mentions protected species and the impact on them would be a disaster in itself, but there would be a disastrous effect on all surrounding species as well. The area around the Blue Heron bridge in Phil Foster park is an important estuary for marine species. It is also a world-class dive site due to its variety of marine life, most of which cannot be found anywhere out on the reef. This dive site has been hailed by all the major dive magazines in the world, and most recently named one of the top 50 dive sites in the world by Sport Diver magazine (many other magazines have named it a top dive site in the past). Divers come from all parts of the world to dive there. On any given day, especially in the summer months, there can be well over a hundred divers there. The area is especially well known as an underwater photographers paradise. You will see a higher percentage of divers with cameras there than practically any other dive site.

I've heard that the project is expected to last two years with construction 24 hours a day, seven days a week and it will produce silty water and dead sea life in the vicinity of Peanut Island and the Blue Heron Bridge. It will also silt up the reefs outside the inlet when there is an outgoing tide, which will further stress and degrade the health of the reef.

In summary, this project will do irreparable harm to the environment and marine species in the area, and I therefore oppose it entirely.

Sincerely,  
Steve Weber  
122 Boskind Rd.  
Indialantic, FL 32903  
321-725-7186

**From:** [Sally Grieb](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Jr. Fruehauf Jr. Fruehauf Jr.](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Dredging Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 9:34:26 PM

---

Angela E. Dunn

As a resident living at the North end of Lake Worth, I am very concerned and opposed to this project. I have previously attended a meeting Karen Marcus held last year and thought that fill in the Turtle Cove area was no longer an issue. Please send me a complete copy of the current situation as I was not able to download from your web site.

Sally W. Grieb  
11437 Old Harbour Road  
Lost Tree Village  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 24, 2013

Ms. Angela E. Dunn  
Department of the Army  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RECEIVED  
5.30.13

Re: Turtle Cove Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Dunn:

I am writing to you to oppose the large scale fill project scheduled for the north end of the Lake Worth Lagoon and Little Lake Worth near Old Port Cove, which is a pristine area. This is a massive project which will impede navigation and affect the riparian rights of waterfront property owners. The accumulation of silt will have a disastrous consequence for the area.

I understand that neither the U. S. Army or Palm Beach County has solicited input from the public. There should be a public hearing so all interested parties can express their concerns and the project should not begin until the potential benefits, if any, can be demonstrated.

Sincerely,



Joyce Guignon  
603 Universe Blvd., Apt. G-122  
Juno Beach, Fl 33408  
Telephone 561-691-9553  
Email joyladypbg@aol.com

**From:** [suzanne](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** turtle cove.  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 1:55:08 PM

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To whom this concerns,

I have been a homeowner in North Palm Beach for 20 years and my parents were here before me.

I am a boater, real estate agent, homeowner and concerned citizen.

For years I have enjoyed the area all around Turtle Cove in many, many ways. This proposal to change the habitat of this area is a big mistake! If you loose the boating and fishing industries in anyway, the real estate values will plummet further than they already have. The changes will not only effect the economy greatly but it will also affect the enjoyment of thousands of people. Let us not always think that "change" is better. And remember that people are animals too! Sounds silly but it is too often forgotten .



**From:** [Steve Schwebke](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 12:06:42 PM

---

Ms Dunn:

I am contacting you about the proposed Port of Palm Beach expansion and its effects on the Blue Heron Bridge Area. First of all, I would like to state that I am a geologist and former surveyor crew chief, with experience in mapping channels prior to and after dredging, conducting seagrass surveys, and dock and pier construction. As a diver and fisherman I have also seen the resulting impacts these actions can have.

About fifteen years ago, the COE dredged the Two Mile channel in Apalachicola, FL, allegedly to aid the local bay shrimpers access to Apalachicola Bay. Few of the people using the channel saw any need for dredging. Before work started, the seagrass beds along the channel were lush beds, often 12 to 15 inches deep. Flounder, redfish, mullet, and blue crabs were abundant. It was an amazingly rich area.

After dredging, miles of seagrass beds were buried under 18 inches of sediment produced by the dredging. It was two years before you could wade the flats there, due to the depth of loose sediment, and five years before the first seagrass emerged. It has still not approached past levels of growth and diversity. Manatees, a protected marine mammal, commonly fed in this channel before the work was done, and were not seen there for years. These flats were also an important part of the local softshell crab industry prior to their devastation. Blue crabs breed during the soft period. No crabs there, no larval crabs produced. It took about seven years for this area to recover from being buried under a huge sediment load, and to find fish and crabs there.

The Blue Heron Bridge area is a WORLD reknown dive site, equaled only by the Lembeh Straits in Indonesia. While I understand it was produced by man made activity, it has evolved into an amazingly diverse ecology that has only one comparable spot in the world. Many people, local and visitors have seen the the value of this place and feel it is worth protecting.

The proposed work near Blue Heron Bridge is estimated to take two years. Two Mile channel took about two weeks. While the State promotes seagrass protection and boater education to prevent prop scars, it will turn around and eliminate vast areas it claims should be protected. The impact of this long term work would be devastating to an amazing amount of sealife, some of which are rare, threatened and endangered creatures. It will take a very, very long time for this area to recover from this proposed project, if it goes through. The animals affected will not simply move on, they will be destroyed by the work. Blue Heron Bridge is an incredible area in it's ecologic diversity and needs to be saved.

Sincerely:

Stephen Schwebke

**From:** [Jake Milman](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 11:01:08 AM

---

Dear Ma'm

I along with many other residents and tourist would ask that you reconsider your plans for the Palm Beach Inlet. The area surrounding the Blue Heron Bridge is teeming with wild life and the dredging would threaten endangered species in the immediate area. I know your reports confirmed this, but i ask you to follow up with a report that analyze's the revenue from eco-tourism due to this area and the reef immediately south of the inlet (Breaker's Reef). This area should in fact be protected with the amount of turtles, eagle rays and manatees that are seen here on a consistent basis.

Thank you for your consideration  
Jake Milman

**From:** [Bob Emmerich](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Expansion Project  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 7:17:05 PM

---

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing to comment on the port of Palm Beach expansion project and its adverse effect on the surrounding marine life and marine environment. The assessment mentions protected species and the impact on them would be a disaster in itself, but there would be a disastrous effect on all surrounding species as well. The area around the Blue Heron bridge in Phil Foster park is an important estuary for marine species. It is also a world-class dive site due to its variety of marine life, most of which cannot be found anywhere out on the reef. This dive site has been hailed by all the major dive magazines in the world, and most recently named one of the top 50 dive sites in the world by Sport Diver magazine (many other magazines have named it a top dive site in the past). Divers come from all parts of the world to dive there. On any given day, especially in the summer months, there can be well over a hundred divers there. The area is especially well known as an underwater photographers paradise. You will see a higher percentage of divers with cameras there than practically any other dive site.

I've heard that the project is expected to last two years with construction 24 hours a day, seven days a week and it will produce silty water and dead sea life in the vicinity of Peanut Island and the Blue Heron Bridge. It will also silt up the reefs outside the inlet when there is an outgoing tide, which will further stress and degrade the health of the reef.

In summary, this project will do irreparable harm to the environment and marine species in the area, and I therefore oppose it entirely.

Sincerely,  
Bob Emmerich  
1140 Hollister Dr.  
West Melbourne, FL 32904

**From:** [SLPNPB@aol.com](mailto:SLPNPB@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [slpnpb@aol.com](mailto:slpnpb@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove - Lake Worth Lagoon  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 1:24:52 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

It has sadly come to our attention, as well as that of our neighbors, area home owners, and businesses that the Turtle Cove Project has not in fact been removed as an Army Corps project. In July 2012, Mr. Rob Robins of the Environmental Resource Management District in Palm Beach County assured an invited committee, which had been involved in stopping this project, that it had been shelved and the permit removed. Apparently, he was either playing verbal games or was uninformed. We protest the continuation of this project on several grounds. Let's start with the fact that this project is really about dumping the dredging's from the Port of Palm Beach, not mitigation. The health of the lagoon is fine. It is possible to daily see dolphin, manatee, sharks, rays, jacks, sea trout, needle fish, sheepshead, turtles and many other kinds of marine life. Residents trap stone crab during season. Commercial fisherman net mullet for bait. None of this is possible without a healthy ecosystem existing, which includes sea grass. Bringing dredged material will however kill the health of the lagoon because the silt in the water will suffocate marine life. Booms/barriers are not 100% foolproof. The said "holes" on the lagoon seabed do have life in and around them.

Residents use the lake on a regular basis for water skiing, jet skiing, fishing, sailing, and weekend anchoring with families. There is also a strong community of winter boating visitors from around the world. Almost every house has a boat. There are multiple marinas in the lagoon. The potential for all of us to lose the ability to use our boats and the lake are tremendous. First of all, having barges and booms in front of our properties for up to ten years is unacceptable. Secondly, the lake will become so shallow to navigate across with a keel boat. The channel that is being proposed around the sides for navigation will silt up because there is ultimately no way to control where the fill will drift, especially after a heavy storm. The Army Corps will never keep the channel dredged because there is no funding for this. So the home owners and marina customers will at some point lose the ability to use boats with any draft. Many of us own this type of craft. On top of this, the boating visitors will be forced to anchor in the channel, further impeding usage by property owners. Markers will not stop anchoring and there will be no policing of this either.

Was an environmental impact study ever done? If so, I would like you to send me a copy of the results. In any event our position remains the same. In essence, the Turtle Cove project is against the wishes of every home owner and business in this area. This project has to stop because it will destroy our usage of the lagoon and destroy marine life during the project in what is already a healthy lagoon. We were already told that this project was shelved. This should be honored and not remain a political issue.

Sincerely,

John & Stephanie Pew  
11127 Old Harbour Rd.  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [Holly Maisto](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Hidden Key  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 1:14:25 PM

---

Dear Ms.Dunn,

It was brought to my attention that the Army Corps is considering a Project called the Turtle Cove Dredging project which involves filling in portions of Little Lake Worth. I live in Hidden Key alongside the Lake and believe this project would be very detrimental to the area. The Lake is heavily used by boaters of all kinds. On any given weekend there are numerous boaters using the lake to knee board and water ski. There are fisherman using nets or lines. There are kayakers who paddle one end to the other. This project would dramatically interfere with these recreational uses. The Lake is small with homeowners on all sides and intensively used. Positioning equipment here would interfere with all of these activities and be very adverse to enjoying the recreational opportunities. Fish and wildlife would also be adversely affected. The Lake is teeming with fish and dredging and filling activity would be detrimental. I am enclosing a recent photo of a dolphin pair in the Lake by our house. Please reconsider this project and its impacts.

Sincerely,

Holly Maisto

**From:** [LilDream09](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Disapprove of the Port of Palm Beach Project  
**Date:** Friday, May 24, 2013 10:12:19 AM

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Hello,

I strongly disapprove of this project. This will have a serious negative impact on dive shops, local and out of state divers etc... The economic impact to local businesses that depend on the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island will hurt or may cause a few of them to go out of business.

Please stop this project.

Lets protect our beaches, marine life and oceans. We only get one shot at this in our life time.

Lets do the right thing all the time.

scubadavid32@aol.com

**From:** [Paul Humann](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach Port expansion  
**Date:** Saturday, May 25, 2013 12:43:05 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing to comment on the port of Palm Beach expansion project and its adverse effect on the surrounding marine life and marine environment. The assessment mentions protected species and the impact on them would be a disaster in itself, but there would be a disastrous effect on all surrounding species as well. The area around the Blue Heron bridge in Phil Foster park is an important estuary for marine species. It is also a world-class dive site due to its variety of marine life, most of which cannot be found anywhere out on the reef. This dive site has been hailed by all the major dive magazines in the world, and most recently named one of the top 50 dive sites in the world by Sport Diver magazine (many other magazines have named it a top dive site in the past). Divers come from all parts of the world to dive there. On any given day, especially in the summer months, there can be well over a hundred divers there. The area is especially well known as an underwater photographers paradise. You will see a higher percentage of divers with cameras there than practically any other dive site.

I understand that the project is expected to last two years with construction 24 hours a day, seven days a week and it will produce silty water and dead sea life in the vicinity of Peanut Island and the Blue Heron Bridge. It will also silt up the reefs outside the inlet when there is an outgoing tide, which will further stress and degrade the health of the reef.

In summary, this project will do irreparable harm to the environment and marine species in the area, and I therefore oppose it entirely.

Sincerely,

Paul Humann  
4980 SW 61 Avenue  
Davie, FL 33314

May 25, 2013

Ms Angela E. Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms Dunn,

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to four existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, Portage Landing, Lost Tree, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

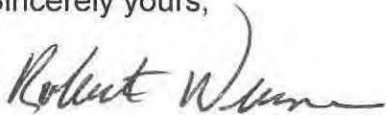
- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.



- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Werner", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Werner  
Member, North Palm Beach Waterways Board



## PROTECT OUR BEACHES

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May 25, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019  
Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil

RE: COMMENTS ON LAKE WORTH INLET, PALM BEACH HARBOR, PALM BEACH COUNTY,  
FLORIDA INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT

Dear Ms. Dunn:

Protect Our Beaches, Inc. is a Palm Beach County coalition of concerned citizens, property owners, civic groups, businesses, and community leaders representing over 20,000 individuals concerned with the stabilization of our coastline and protection of our ecosystem, dunes, beaches, homes and commercial property.

In reviewing the Corps of Engineers' Draft EIS for the above referenced project, we have serious concerns about the potential adverse impact this project may have on the adjacent coastline, north and south, and view the absence of a comprehensive coastal erosion study north of the inlet as a serious deficiency that leaves this EIS incomplete and fatally flawed.

The proposed Lake Worth Inlet expansion could have an adverse environmental impact on beaches to the north of the inlet and cause an increase in erosion. This area, Singer Island, is among the most prolific turtle nesting areas of the state, as well as being a popular tourist destination location and is home to nearly 5,000 residents. Singer Island has suffered significant beach and dune loss, particularly in recent years. Singer Island is vulnerable to storm events and recently has sustained damage to beaches, dunes, ecosystems, and public and private property from seasonal storms and TS/Hurricane Sandy.

These facts, when compounded by sea level rise, must be considered as a part of the EIS process. Further, the modeling in the EIS does not reflect existing conditions that are dramatically different from the factual setting of the Draft EIS due to the impact from TS/Hurricane Sandy, and is therefore inadequate.

High Frequency Storm Erosion Models must be incorporated using a common set of indicators to measure data, storm surge and high tide events in what is an accelerated erosion zone post Sandy.

Changes in sedimentation adversely affects Singer Island beaches and needs to be documented with post-Sandy conditions and include modeling that evaluates the project impacts related to erosion north of the jetty. The cross-currents at the mouth of the inlet

PAGE TWO  
May 25, 2013  
Ms. Angela Dunn

require an "impact assessment," as Singer Island beaches will undoubtedly face increased sand deficits resulting from more severe down-drift.

Additionally, evidence suggests that tidal currents in the existing channel and northward cross currents related to the Gulf Stream are cause for concern for Singer Island as are high shoaling rates that contribute to re-occurring problems.

For these reasons we are opposed to moving forward with this proposal and ask that the Corps suspend the process until such time that a proper, thorough analysis of the environmental and erosion impacts is documented and required mitigation measures, if any, are identified. Singer Island residents must be assured that these dunes, beaches, and ecosystems, and their property and property values, are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Gonstead".

Robert Gonstead  
Vice President

Cc: Palm Beach County Commission  
Representative Lois Frankel  
Representative Patrick Murphy  
Representative Ted Deutsch  
Representative Alcee Hastings  
Senator Bill Nelson  
Senator Marco Rubio

**From:** [Christopher Cerniglia](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2013 5:07:15 PM

---

Please consider the consequences of the Army Corps Turtle Cove Dredging project which involves filling in portions of Little Lake Worth. The Lake is heavily used by boaters and fisherman, as a resident of Hidden Key, it will be detrimental to all who enjoy the lake.

Thank you in advance,

Chris

Christopher J. Cerniglia  
11902 Lake Shore Pl  
Hidden Key  
561 252 5424

**From:** [Dcsbubba@aol.com](mailto:Dcsbubba@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2013 6:37:40 PM

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Ms. Dunn;

We are property owners and boat owners that live in Hidden Key, North Palm Beach. I was at the meeting held last July when we were told the project would NOT attempt to dump muck and other dredging material into the hole at the north end of the lake, opposite Old Port Cove. The reasons were that #1 the silt would, because of tides and storms, shift to the opening into Little Lake Worth. When the new bridge was put up, the Army Corps of Engineers, refused to dredge, so there will be no hope of their doing so in the future. #2 all of us would see our property values decline because we would no longer have access to the big lake or the ocean. The environmental health of our lagoon is fine! We have lots of fish, from manatees to jacks to mullet, so we do not need any more sea grass. Dump somewhere else!

Sincerely,  
Delores T. Colton  
11971 Lake Shore Place  
North Palm Beach, Fl. 33408

**From:** [Carlos Estape](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Expansion  
**Date:** Sunday, May 26, 2013 10:38:35 PM

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As a year round resident of South Florida, an avid SCUBA diver and a frequent visitor to BHB I implore that the expansion plans be terminated.

It seems to me that there needs to be a balance between economic activity and development and preserving the very reasons why we call this place our home. What remains of the already depleted and stressed wildlife will surely be displaced and or killed off if this project goes through. The Blue Heron Bridge divesites and its environs are a nursery for unusual and rare species, a highlight for many local and visiting tourists.

The lyrics of "You don't know what you have till its gone, they paved paradise and put up a parking lot" seems apropos on this occassion.

Sincerely,

Carlos & Allison Estape



**Arlyn Easton**

---

100 Lakeshore Drive #552  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
May 27, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn:

RE: Our opposition to Turtle Cove mitigation: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report – EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April, 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port Of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

We are registering a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty two acres of much sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself.

This is one of the premier anchorage and recreational boating areas in South Florida that would be lost if the depth of the water becomes too shallow for boats to navigate.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, we are concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. We do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to the navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,



Arlyn T. and Sandra Easton



**From:** [raul fernandez](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach / Blue Heron Bridge (Dive Site)  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2013 10:39:35 AM

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Hello Ms. Dunn

I like to take this opportunity to express my concern over the project proposed at the Port of Palm Beach. I'm not a resident of Palm Beach, but I'm a resident of south Florida (Broward). I'm a diver and I frequent the dive site at Blue Heron Bridge (Phil Foster Park). I'm always taken back by the popularity of this dive. On a dive day, the parking lot is packed with divers from all over Florida and the country. As it has been noted in many dive magazines, this site holds a unique marine life only found in few place anywhere in the world. I've logged over 500 dives in Florida and throughout the caribbean and this place is truly special.

I do not belong to any environmental groups or financially support them. I'm part of several local dive clubs. I understand and support local economic growth. I see our local environment as our biggest source of revenue. As such, it is important for us to protect our local environment. I do not support economic growth at the expense of local or small business and our environment. I do believe in finding common ground, where our local environment and businesses are not impacted while providing economic opportunity for our local residents.

Thank you for your time,

Raul



**From:** [Marguerite Freidheim](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove project on Lake Worth Lagoon  
**Date:** Monday, May 27, 2013 11:38:41 AM

---

Dear Ms Dunn,

As a resident of Lost Tree Village who lives on Old Harbour Rd. and has our home on the water of Lake Worth we are directly impacted by this proposed project. We are adamantly against this project. I find it difficult to imagine we were not even notified directly of this realizing it adversely affects our view, property value and use of the water.

We are presently in Turkey, returning June 20th and unable to attend any meetings prior to that time being in Europe. It is interesting that this project resurfaces now at a time when a number of residents on the lake are at summer vacation and therefore will not even be aware that this is happening. All that are impacted on Old Harbour Road have expressed their strongest opposition to the project.

As a taxpayer it is amazing to me that with all the important necessities that are required by our state and country there would be an effort to move forward on a project strongly objected to by those people that are directly affected.

Very truly yours,

Marguerite Freidheim  
11105 Old Harbour Rd.  
North Palm Beach, Fl. 33408  
Sent from my iPad

**Old Port Cove Condominium Association Five, Inc.  
Marina Tower  
108 Lakeshore Drive  
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408**

May 28, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: Turtle Cove – Lake Worth Lagoon

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing you as President of Marina Tower, Old Port Cove. Our 77 owners wish to express their sincere objection to the Turtle Cove project planned in Lake Worth Lagoon. Our owners feel that this project is very much a solution to an abstract and very questionable problem. The long-term benefits cannot be specifically and clearly established as the ecosystem continuously teaches us that the more we think we know about it, the less we actually find out we know. .

It is so hard to imagine that an undertaking of this magnitude, at this point in our financial history, is even contemplated. We live in a time when White House Tours are being restricted, Blue Angel flyovers at Naval Academy graduation ceremonies are cancelled, and Air Traffic Controllers are being furloughed due to financial constraints endangering our welfare and safety. It is hard to conceive that this project is so important that funds need to be diverted to it when there are so many other higher priority needs that would make much better use of this funding, and have a greater impact.

At the risk of being labeled in a similar category as the “Bridge to Nowhere” project in Alaska, we respectfully request that this project not be undertaken and the funding utilized in a much more appropriate manner.

Thank you.

Steve Cohen, President – (561) 596-4000

Cc: Marina Tower Board of Governors, POA Board of Governors, Cathie Carr, Tim Scholes

**From:** [louisportman@comcast.net](mailto:louisportman@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Lake Worth Inlet/Port Project - sample letter and info docs  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:15:23 AM

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Ms. Dunn,

This letter is to express our concern about the Lake Worth Inlet/Port Project.

My wife and I attended 3 meetings here in the Village of North Palm Beach about the proposed project that was deferred for a later date. What was particularly disturbing about the information we received from the county was NO IMPACT STUDY was ever accomplished. We also learned that the dredging project and the dumping of this "clean sand" into our area is a project to enlarge the Riviera Beach Marina and Yacht building businesses??

I strongly suggest you personally visit the impact area and also arrange a meeting, with plenty of notice to all of us who are concerned about this project.

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hard bottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of

North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munnyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Louis B Portman

130 Lakeshore Dr. #1022

North Palm Beach 33408

**From:** [Jack Nicklaus II](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 2:03:21 PM

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Dear Angela,

I am writing in regard to the proposed Turtle Cove Project. I do not support this project. Not only, in my opinion, will it eliminate recreational boating in the area, the Turtle Cove Project will negatively impact home values by limiting boating access to and from existing marinas and homes.

I have studied the proposed relocation of fill. The advertised intent of creating a mitigated area for sea grass sounds great. The reality is that gravity/settlement will occur; thus eliminating navigational channels. The fact that the governing bodies to date have refused to manage the extended anchorage of the sail boaters that continually dump waste into our once pristine lake gives me little confidence that they would be capable of managing channels, markers, etc...

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Jack Nicklaus II

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [BALDEGLE25@aol.com](mailto:BALDEGLE25@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** (no subject)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 2:34:17 PM

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Please forward this letter as appropriate to US Army Corp. of Engineers

I have been an owner of one of the units at Harbor Village for approximately the past thirty years. During that time I have kept my boat, a 31' 1976 Chris Craft, moored at my dock in Harbor Village. I respectfully request that none of the contemplated changes to the body of water referred to as Turtle Cove be approved.

A. P. Kirby

Old Port Cove

5/28/13

**From:** [etarello@comcast.net](mailto:etarello@comcast.net)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** USACE EIS for LWI, PB Harbor  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2013 11:56:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [201305281145.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

Please see attached formal objection to the proposed seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove.

Eileen Tarello  
126 Lakeshore Drive, Apt. PH 25  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

Sent from Xfinity Mobile App

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

*Eileen Tarello, 126 Lakeshore Drive, Apt PH25, N. Palm Beach, FL 33408*  
SIGN, PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS EILEEN TARELLO





## Lost Tree Village Property Owners Association

11237 Lost Tree Way • North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

Tel 561-622-7047 • Fax 561-627-4139

May 28, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

### LAKE WORTH INLET/ TURTLE COVE DREDGING PROJECT

Dear Ms. Dunn:

Please consider this letter a formal objection from The Lost Tree Village Property Owners Association, Inc. (LTVPOA) regarding the proposed Lake Worth Inlet dredging project and in particular the "dredged material placement mitigation sites" referred to as #1 (Little Lake Worth and #2 Turtle Cove/Lake Worth Lagoon) discussed at the Public Meeting on May 9, 2013.

Our Board feels this project could negatively affect our community in the following ways:

1. Impede navigation in the area by eliminating a long-established navigation channel and force the relocation of the vessels currently moored in the area of the project.
2. Destroy sea life in the currently pristine lagoon during the course of the project because of the constant equipment traffic and disturbed water.
3. Accumulation of silt, stagnation of water, biological and eco-system imbalances in Little Lake Worth, and also the existing marinas in the immediate vicinity of the project site.
4. This multi-year construction project will be detrimental to property values in any and all of the waterfront communities in this area.
5. The proposed fill operation could impair the riparian rights of owners of properties adjacent to both the lagoon and Little Lake Worth.
6. Destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water; Lake Worth Lagoon being Palm Beach County's largest and most historic anchorage.

We were very surprised to learn that our community was never notified of your intent to reintroduce this project, and the short amount of time in which we had to respond. We feel that another public hearing would afford all interested parties an opportunity to participate in the process and address all the concerns as outlined above. We encourage you to consider another Public Hearing in the near future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Milanese, President  
On Behalf of Lost Tree Village POA  
Board of Governors

Cc: Rick Bayliss, Chief Operating Office/GM, Lost Tree Club  
Karen Marcus  
Cyrus Freidheim, President, Lost Tree Club

OLD PORT COVE LAKE POINT TOWER CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.

1201 U.S. Highway One, Suite 330  
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408  
(561) 686-7818 • Fax (561) 686-7284

May 28, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report – EIS For LWI, PB Harbor

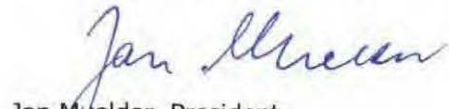
Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing to you, as president of the Lake Point Tower Condominium Association, to formally object, on behalf of our 300+ residents, to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove. We request that that portion of Lake Worth Lagoon, referred to as "Turtle Cove", be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites.

We believe that the project would negatively impact existing sea life, marina operations and navigation in the pristine lagoon, but most importantly would encroach on our riparian rights and decrease the value of our property.

When a similar project was under consideration two years ago, over 150 of our residents sent personal letters of objection. Because of the short lead time on this project and the fact that our final meeting of the season was held before we learned of it, we weren't able to notify all owners. Our Board of Governors, however, is unanimously opposed, and, of behalf of the 300+ residents, request that you remove "Turtle Cove" from the list of potential Mitigation sites.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Jan Muelder, President  
LAKE POINT TOWER CONDOIMINIUM ASSOCIATION, INC.  
561-775-8604

JM/pp

cc: Board of Governors, Lake Point Tower Condominium Association, Inc.  
Tom Anastasi, Old Port Cove Property Owners Association, Inc.  
Cathie Carr, Vice President, MMI of the Palm Beaches, Inc.  
Andy Romero, Resident Building Manager, Lake Point Tower

**From:** [Virginia Utley](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#); [rbayliss@losttreeclub.com](mailto:rbayliss@losttreeclub.com); [karentmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:karentmarcus@gmail.com); [pnpb@aol.com](mailto:pnpb@aol.com); "[Helen Scott](#)"  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 4:23:46 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am just receiving the information for the first time on the Turtle Cove Project, and I am feeling alarmed as I have not heard word of this project prior to this and it is scheduled for June 3rd, just this next week.

Why has the developement of Hidden Key that is on the end of Little Lake Worth not been informed of such a project that will obviously our sub division and community?

Mrs. Helen Scott sent me this information today.

Ms Dunn, please keep me informed as to what is happening with this project and any studies that you may have made in regard to the project.

Right now, I am feeling that this project should be put on hold until more information is known and more people who's property will be affected are aware and decisions are made in the best interest of the communities on the water way.

Sincerely yours,

Virginia Utley

11555 Landing Place

North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

**From:** [Ruth Petzold](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [rbayliss@losttree.com](mailto:rbayliss@losttree.com)  
**Subject:** Turtle cove project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 11:14:25 PM

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Dear Ms Dunn

I would like to go on record as one who OPPOSES VERY STRONGLY the ridiculous proposal to "fill" the north end of Lake Worth Lagoon . The destruction of the wild life would be countless !

Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter

Sincerely Ruth Petzold

**From:** [eres22@aol.com](mailto:eres22@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:58:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Turtle Cove Mitigation 5-29-13.doc](#)

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

Please find enclosed a letter regarding our disapproval toward the above project associated with the Lake Worth Inlet/Palm Beach Harbor project.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this matter.

Paula and Eric Gleacher  
11453 Old Harbour Rd  
No. Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 29, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: Turtle Cove

Dear Ms. Dunn

It has just recently come to our attention that the US Army Corps of Engineers is moving forward with the widening and deepening of the Lake Worth Inlet/Palm Beach Harbor Project. We have also just come to understand that the Turtle Cove area is currently targeted as the area for the Seagrass Mitigation portion of that project.

We have a home directly on the Turtle Cove and are wondering how this project could possibly move forward, when as landowners we have been given absolutely no notice from your agency or any other local agency in the area?

In your report it states that a chosen area should have "little or no daily perturbations from boating activities". We would like you to know that our Turtle Pond area is full to the brim with boating activities, especially during the fall, winter and spring seasons! Did the preparer of this report come to the Turtle Cove area in the dead of summer?

This is an extremely active area which is used daily by its residents for water skiing, sailing, fishing, and boating. It is also used daily as an anchoring area for boaters on their retreats. It would be devastating to all of the landowners and local residents to lose the use of our valuable commodity...peace and quiet enjoyment of our waters. Not to mention it also has the potential to destroy marine life and land values during construction and beyond.

It is unacceptable to us that this project move forward and use Turtle Cove as its dumping ground. Please take this letter as notice of our strong disapproval with the use of Turtle Cove as the Seagrass Mitigation Site for the Lake Worth Intlet/Palm Beach Harbor project.

Respectfully yours,

Eric and Paula Gleacher  
11453 Old Harbour Rd,  
No. Palm Beach, Fl 33408



RECEIVED  
6/3/13

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

May 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I have just been informed by several of my neighbors in the Lost Tree Village, Portage Landing and Hidden Key communities of a project called, Turtle Cove Project. After learning more about the full scope of the project, I am vehemently opposed to the Turtle Cove project and request the permit removed and project shelved once and for all.

Having grown up on Lake Worth lagoon and the surrounding tributary waterways, the ecosystem seems very vibrant and healthy and feel there is no need to dump the dredging material into "holes" in the lagoon. In fact, just last week I took my kids out on the boat and we were amazed at all the various wildlife/marine life(e.g. rays, manatees, jacks, mullet, mangrove snapper) just to name a few. In addition to the environmental issues, I feel the lake will become too shallow for boaters to navigate their vessels safely should this project be granted the green light. Another point of concern is the containment of the fill to just that area. No one can predict with any certainty, where the fill will end up after heavy storms blow through our area which is a frightening thought and a risk the Army Corps of Engineers should avoid.

In closing, our healthy Lake Worth lagoon should never be compromised and the Turtle Cove project must be stopped!

Kind regards,  
Mark J. Colton  
11663 Lake Shore Place  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [Pascucci, MP](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Pascucci, MP](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Dredging  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:51:34 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**Attention: Ms. Angela Dunn, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**Ms. Dunn,**

**I have learned that the Army Corps is once again considering a project that would entail the dredging of the access to the Port of Palm Beach, and would include the fill of certain sites including at Turtle Cove (the north end of Lake Worth Lagoon). I live near the Turtle Cove site, and this area is a pristine waterway, has a large diversity of sea life, and is an important recreational and boating area.**

**The proposed project, especially as it entails the fill at Turtle Cove, would be terribly damaging to the wildlife and plant life and would destroy the existing natural beauty and resources that exist. Consequently, it would also adversely affect property values for those of us who live in the surrounding area.**

**I strongly urge the Army Corps to abandon this project once and for all, and leave the area as it is.**

**Michael C. Pascucci  
11421 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, Florida 33408**



**From:** [Meryl Witmer](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach Dredging Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:57:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [LWI\\_PublicMeeting\\_5\\_3\\_2013.pdf](#)

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Ms. Dunn,

I have attached the pdf document outlining the Port of Palm Beach dredging project.

**I would like to know how shallow the areas marked 1 and 2 will be after the mitigation project is complete. This is important information for me to form a judgement.**

Slide 9 has the map with labeled areas.

Thank you very much.

Meryl

**From:** [lakelytal@aol.com](mailto:lakelytal@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:22:23 PM

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I live on Little Lake worth in Lost Tree Village. I am a native of Palm Beach County and an avid fisherman. I remember the north end of Lake Worth as it used to be and witnessed the dredging that took place to develop the North Palm Beach water front, Hidden Key and Lost Tree as well as the waterfront along southern West Palm Beach and Lake Worth. The dredging resulted in a a number of "dead zones" in Lake Worth and most of Little Lake Worth. To my knowledge, the Snook Island project in Little Lake Worth was the first attempt to correct these mistakes of the past and has been a tremendous success. I was elated when I first heard of the Turtle Cove project and was dumbfounded when I heard that it was being opposed by North Palm Beach and several residents in the area. I can only attribute this to the fact that most current residents and public officials have no idea what Lake Worth was like before the dredging occurred. I encourage you to go forward with this project knowing that it is long overdue and will improve the lake without disrupting its current use. When you complete this project I hope you will consider rectifying the ecological disaster that Little Lake Worth became when it was dredged to more than 30 feet to create the land my house currently sits on. If I may suggest, I believe much of the opposition to this project would go away if those opposing it were educated as to why these deep areas in the lake should be filled. I have had numerous conversations about this with Jim Barry who was with the county's environmental department for years and I am confident that Jim would be willing and able to convince those willing to listen that your project should be supported rather than opposed.

**From:** [Janet Bornhoeft](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turle Cove Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:59:16 PM

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Dear Angela,

My husband and I live on Little Lake Worth and we are STRONGLY opposed to the Turtle Cove project and it's desire to fill in the area near us. We bought our house in 1989 and boat frequently. This project would negatively impact our sea life, diminish our property values, and be destructive to our recreational use of Little and Big Lake Worth. Our quality of life would be affected. We do NOT want this area filled to allow sea grass to grow. Please grow it somewhere else- perhaps south of Peanut Island.

Sincerely,

Janet R. Bornhoeft  
May 29, 2013

May 29, 2013

Via Certified Mail and  
E-mail to [Angela.e.dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.e.dunn@usace.army.mil)  
Angela E. Dunn  
Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4907  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I am writing this letter to object to plans announced by the Army Corps to use the Turtle Cove area of Lake Worth Lagoon and Little Lake Worth as dumping points for materials from the proposed dredging of the Port of Palm Beach. I have been a resident of North Palm Beach for the past 43 years, and my home is located on the East shore of Lake Worth overlooking the Turtle Cove dumping site. I was told that the project was shelved after previous objections, and it now appears that it is proceeding; however, I can't imagine devoting scarce federal funding to a project like this and hope that instead it can be abandoned for good this time.

The Turtle Cove area and Little Lake Worth provide the only access to the Intracoastal Waterway and Atlantic Ocean to residents of developments located north of MacArthur State Park, including Lost Tree Village, Twelve Oaks, Captain's Key, Mariner's Key, Hidden Key, and Seminole Golf Club. The navigational impact created by a dumping operation of this size will interfere with thousands of trips by boaters and fishermen living in this area who have depended upon this access for decades. It will also interfere with boaters from other areas who use this part of the lagoon system for recreation on a daily basis.

As a longtime resident and avid fisherman, I have also seen marine life flourish in the Turtle Cove area in the last decade, and in addition to mullet runs, we regularly see tarpon, snook, dolphin and manatee enjoying the habitat provided by these waters in their current state. The disruption of a dump operation of this size will drive these fish and animals away indefinitely, and stress what are now thriving populations, by chasing them from their longtime home into undesirable and dangerous areas of the lagoon.

In the parts of five decades I have lived along Turtle Cove, it has been a beautiful, quiet place that will never be the same if this project goes forward, even after the disruption of the dumping operations themselves is over . . . and I just can't imagine that is in anyone's best interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Fiedler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J".

**From:** [Gretta Curry](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAI](#)  
**Subject:** Lake Worth Inlet Project; National Economic Development Plan (NED)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:46:18 PM

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We have great concern regarding the above named project. We have no opinion on the benefits and deficits of the Army Corps of Engineer's proposed plan to deepen and widen the channel leading to the Port of Palm Beach. However, we are gravely concerned with the plan's proposed methods for mitigating displaced seagrass and hardbottom as a result of the channel's enlargement.

As we understand it, the Corps has identified 10 sites throughout the Lake Worth lagoon for placement of dredge and rock materials displaced as a result of channel widening. Based on cost analysis, the first choice for seagrass mitigation is northern Lake Worth, just south of Little Lake Worth inlet. ([http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI-08\\_Appendices\\_D\\_to\\_G\\_.pdf](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI-08_Appendices_D_to_G_.pdf) <[http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI-08\\_Appendices\\_D\\_to\\_G\\_.pdf](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI-08_Appendices_D_to_G_.pdf)> ; [http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI\\_02\\_Appendix\\_A\\_Engineering\\_Vol1.pdf](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI_02_Appendix_A_Engineering_Vol1.pdf) <[http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI\\_02\\_Appendix\\_A\\_Engineering\\_Vol1.pdf](http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Portals/44/docs/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocs/LWI_02_Appendix_A_Engineering_Vol1.pdf)> )

We were surprised to learn that this project is even under consideration, because a similar project entitled the Turtle Cove Restoration project was the subject of a large public outcry exactly a year ago. Last year, after several public meetings, citizens were led to believe that the Turtle Cove Restoration project was permanently tabled. This new project appears to be proposing the same mitigation plan. Opinions of citizens have not changed in a year. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water.

At a public meeting last year in regards to the Turtle Cove project the following concerns were raised:

- 1) The massive amount of fill is likely to result in accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading to Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas of Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth would result in a "dead zone" body of water.
- 2) The project would harm the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the multi year course of the project. The dumping of massive amounts of sand from areas outside the community would result in constant equipment traffic and disturbed water.
- 3) The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project also encroaches on an existing, long established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- 4) The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property owners and negatively impact the surrounding communities.
- 5) Given the Munyon Island remediation projects that have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, there is a high probability that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable or nurtured. Any questionable benefits of the proposed mitigation do not outweigh the compromised viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Additionally we question the possibility of the sand from the dredged inlet being contaminated with oil or other toxins.

Finally, we are perplexed by the recent press coverage of the stalled Snook Islands project south of the Port of Palm Beach. A recent article in the Palm Beach Post indicates that this site is in need of dredge material. <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/local/dump-trucks-no-longer-rolling-to-lake-worths-bryan/nXwm6/>. Would it not make sense to put dredge material where it is desired first, before proposing sites where there is great concern about a negative impact?

We strongly appeal to you to reconsider this plan and to make every future effort to involve local citizens in all aspects of the Lake Worth Inlet Project review. Please keep us on any list for notification of public hearings related to this project.

Thanks you.

Sincerely,

Gretta and Jack Curry  
12150 Captains Landing  
North Palm Beach, FL  
561-758-3869

**From:** [craigaclough@gmail.com](mailto:craigaclough@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Holly Galleher](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Grove project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 1:02:14 PM

---

I highly object to the project.

This will be an environmental disaster and a huge detriment to our community.

Craig Clough

Lost Tree POA

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [carlkreittler@aol.com](mailto:carlkreittler@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** turtle cove project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 2:42:18 PM

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hello ms. dunn,  
the purpose of this email is to let you know that my wife and I are strongly opposed to the proposed dredging plan known as "turtle cove".  
the plan would be very disruptive to our lake, property values and our quality of living.  
please do not proceed with the dredging.  
further, I find it of interest that you present these major issues when many residents are in transit .  
accordingly they are not knowledgeable on this matter and are not in a position to respond. January, February and March would be a more fair time to approach homeowners on such matters. thank you.  
mr and mrs carl j. kreittler jr  
11725 lost tree way  
no. palm beach, 33408

**From:** [Bob Birmingham](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Tuttle Cove Dredging  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2013 12:47:48 PM

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I am opposed to the dredging project that would use the turtle Cove area as one of the designated sites for depositing fill. This action would be hazardous to boat navigation as well as diminish recreation use of this area. As a resident of Lost Tree I am also concerned about the potential negative effect on property values. RMB



**From:** [Tom Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:28:36 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn – I hope this note finds you well.

My note will surely join many others in protesting the proposed project to fill-in the "Turtle Cove" area at the north end of Lake Worth. Filling this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake, and destroy the recreational use of this pristine body of water. **I strongly oppose the project.**

This project has met vocal opposition in the past -- it lacks both need or logic. As a Florida tax payer, a Lake Worth neighbor and an active user of the waterways, I want to strongly oppose this project.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our state and country, as well as for your thoughtful consideration of my and other people's objection to this project.

Sincerely,

Tom

Thomas S. Murphy, Jr.  
11288 Golfview Lane  
Lost Tree Village  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
[tmurphy@crestview.com](mailto:tmurphy@crestview.com)

**From:** [Thomas Wells](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge diving comments  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 11:01:07 AM

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Angela,

As a diver who has been privileged to dive the Blue Heron Bridge/Phil Foster Park for a number of years, both day and night, I am distressed beyond words to find its treasures are endangered yet again.

This dive site is unique in the U.S., and possibly the world, in its offering of so much species diversity. Without becoming too verbose, I need to express how much it means, and has meant to the diving community.

At first it appears to be a sort of sandy, mucky, desolate extension of the Intracoastal Waterway, shallow and devoid of life. Once dived, it yields literally hundreds of species to be discovered, as documented in several books which have included its fish, crab and nudibranch life. I know of no other U.S. dive site that contains anywhere near the multitude of species that this site has to offer.

It would be a disaster for the natural world and to the diving population to have this haven destroyed. Please do whatever you can to preserve it!

Tom

Tom Wells  
St Augustine Florida  
904-460-0098

**From:** [Sue Conaty](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** dredging of Lake Worth Inlet  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:51:36 PM

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I am totally against the dredging. I believe it leaves us wide open for a potential environmental nightmare should the increased boat traffic result in leaks, etc. Plus the increased traffic and increased size per vehicle couldn't help but harm the ecosystem. For that cost, I believe the money could be spent MUCH better in a way that would have a much greater positive impact of the residents of the area. We live on Little Lake Worth and value our lake, the life IN the waterways, as well as the life ON the waterways to be in favor of this dredging.

Sue Conaty  
11861 Lost Tree Way  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [Stanley Pannaman](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Ed Tichenor](#)---- [Reef Rescue](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment The Army Corp Feasibility Study  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:00:15 PM

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The Army Corp Feasibility Study and EIS says blasting and dredging for the 100 million dollar Port of Palm Beach expansion will adversely impact nearby sea life. Construction for the two year project will continue 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will produce silty water and other hazards in the vicinity of Peanut Island and the Blue Heron Bridge.

In comments sent to the ACOE, environmental organizations cited a failure of the EIS to fully assess the impacts from turbidity, siltation and contaminated sediments on flora and fauna and the impact on diving/snorkeling at the world renowned Blue Heron Bridge (BHB).

*activities at both the BHB and Peanut Island can be severely impacted by turbidity, siltation, blasting and construction equipment associated with the proposed expansion project. All negative economic impacts resulting from the loss of recreational usage must be, and have not been, factored into the overall Port of Palm Beach Expansion economic assessment."*

*"The document fails to take into consideration the physical and chemical nature of the suspended solids impacting the receiving environment... Marinas and boatyards are notorious for containing contaminated sediments, including Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH's), organic contaminants, heavy metals and most notably tributyltin (TBT)... there is a high likelihood agricultural and urban runoff pollutants may be present in sediments within the proposed port expansion footprint. The Port of Palm Beach receives runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Contaminates present in EAA sediments can include arsenic, pesticides, herbicides, DDT and its degradation products."*

*"It is imperative that prior to any dredging/excavation authorization, within this unique environmental/recreational setting, a full understanding of potential contaminants, routes of exposure and long-term effects on the public health, flora and fauna be assessed. The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS in its present form fails to address these issues."*

**From:** [H. Richard Fruehauf](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project - Army Corps Letter  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 10:45:14 AM

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*H. Richard Fruehauf, Jr.  
11349 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408*

May 30, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Subject: Turtle Cove Project

Dear Ms. Dunn:

We understand that the subject project is again in the planning stage to enlarge and deepen access to the Port of Palm Beach and that it is the intent of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to fill in a number of deep areas to allow more sea grass to grow.

Please be advised that we are vehemently opposed to this project and filling in this area would hamper navigation, destroy sea life, diminish property values near the lake, and obliterate the recreational use of this pristine body of water. Your attention and review of the plans is requested as we feel moving forward with the Turtle Cove Project would be most devastating and inadvisable. Additionally we ask that these procedures be cancelled for all of the above stated reasons.

Yours truly,

H. Richard Fruehauf, Jr.  
Fruehauf

Janet A.

**From:** [Rebecca Barrack](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** BHB Diving  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:28:49 PM

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I, along with several dive buddies I take to the Blue Heron Bridge regularly, would be greatly saddened and affected by the proposed Port of Palm Beach Expansion. It would severely damage the natural sanctuary that currently exists below those waters.

Please do NOT mess with a GREAT thing!

Sincerely,  
ScubaNole

**From:** [Reef Rescue](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Port of Palm Beach Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 8:08:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [Palm Beach County Reef Rescue Port comments.doc](#)

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Attached as a word document to this email please find our comments on the proposed Port of Palm Beach, Port Expansion Project.

Ed Tichenor, Director  
Palm Beach County Reef Rescue  
561 699-8559

# **Palm Beach County REEF RESCUE**

**P.O. Box 207  
Boynton Beach, Florida 33425  
(561) 699-8559  
Email: [etichscuba@aol.com](mailto:etichscuba@aol.com)  
[www.reef-rescue.org](http://www.reef-rescue.org)**

May 29, 2013

## **PALM BEACH COUNTY REEF RESCUE COMMENTS:**

**DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT LAKE WORTH INLET, PALM BEACH HARBOR PALM BEACH  
COUNTY, FLORIDA  
U S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT  
APRIL 2013**

The above referenced report fails to adequately address all of the potential negative environmental and economic impacts and implications of the project on the Palm Beach Harbor area. The report does not take into consideration the substantial recreational resource located within the immediate area of potential project impacts and what affects the loss of these resources, either temporarily or permanently, will have on the local economy.

### Definition of Recreational Resources

#### **Blue Heron Bridge at Phil Foster Park**

The area of the Blue Heron Bridge (BHB) supports a significant recreational SCUBA and snorkeling community. The area is considered unique due to its flora and fauna; attracting underwater photographers and enthusiasts worldwide. According to local SCUBA retailers the BHB can draw as many one hundred divers per day.

The BHB is recognized internationally as an underwater macro-photography mecca due to an abundance of tropical fish, gobies, blennies, squid, rays, seahorses, starfish, octopus, nudibranchs, tunicates, lobster as well as a plethora of benthic invertebrates and organisms. Palm Beach County (PBC) has recently completed a snorkeling trail adjacent to the BHB, constructed with limestone boulders and prefabricated reef modules it increases the benthic hardbottom community and provides additional essential habitat for juvenile fish. The trail spans a two acre area in six to ten feet of water. Over 600 tons of rocks were used to construct the project which was completed April 2012. However, even before completion the BHB had a reputation as a world-class diving destination.

The BHB is utilized for SCUBA diving training. Due to its sheltered location instructors take student divers to this area to practice skills needed for SCUBA

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research, education and public awareness



## **Palm Beach County REEF RESCUE**

certification. There is no other like setting in PBC where this type of training can be performed.

In addition, because of the sheltered nature of this location many diving charter boats take their customers to BHB when sea conditions are unfavorable for offshore diving. Local dive businesses rely on this important option when out-of-area groups come to Palm Beach County for SCUBA excursions. This diving alternative is a component of an out-of-area tour group's decision to select PBC as a diving destination.

The financial impact of BHB tourism related expenditures represents a significant contribution to the local economy.

PBC BHB factsheet:

(<http://www.pbcgov.com/erm/downloads/pdf/projectfactsheets/philfostersnorkeltrail.pdf>)

### **Peanut Island**

The County operated Peanut Island Park offers a year-round opportunity for swimming in the Intracoastal Waterway. Adjacent to the beach PBC has built a shallow-water reef habitat Snorkeling Lagoon. On weekends and holidays hundreds of recreation boaters anchor in the shallow waters north and east of the island.

The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS discusses blasting impacts on populations of whales, sea turtles, manatees and the resulting mortality of finfish. However, there is no evaluation, assessment or safety consideration for potential blast related barotrauma to divers/snorkelers. Nor does it address blasting impacts on the large Peanut Island recreational boating community.

All of the aforementioned activities at both the BHB and Peanut Island can be severely impacted by turbidity, siltation, blasting and construction equipment associated with the proposed expansion project. All negative economic impacts resulting from the loss of recreational usage must be, and have not been, factored into the overall Port of Palm Beach Expansion economic assessment.

### **Turbidity & Sediment Impacts**

The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS suggests project related turbidity i.e., cloudiness and siltation (suspended solids) can be controlled/kept in-check by employing a turbidity requirement of no greater than 29 NTU above background. Stating; should an exceedance

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## Palm Beach County REEF RESCUE

occur work would cease until readings returned to background levels. However, the document fails to define the extent of the “mixing zone” within which turbidity values greater than 29 NTU would be permissible. Nor does the document indicate the frequency with which turbidity analysis will be performed or how “background” will be determined.

The proposed 29 NTU standard is not intended to preserve the aesthetic water quality necessary for recreational diving/snorkeling. Typically underwater horizontal visibility at the BHB ranges between 20 to 40 feet; a clarity essential for photography and diver safety. There is no correlation between the 29 NTU standard and resulting horizontal visibility. A nephelometric standard appropriate for preserving the existing BHB water clarity must be developed.

The document fails to cite a scientific reference or justification that a 29 NTU above background standard will not degrade the receiving environment. The 29 NTU standard appears to be gleaned from Florida Statute; a standard which is generally employed during short-term construction projects. The 29 NTU standard is not designed for protection of the environment, bathers, snorkelers and divers from long-term, multi-year, chronic exposure to potentially contaminated sediments.

The document fails to take into consideration the physical and chemical nature of the suspended solids impacting the receiving environment. Results of sediment analysis published by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Florida coastal sediment contaminants atlas a summary of coastal sediment quality surveys, 1994) found *“Both metal and organic contamination are ubiquitous [in sediments] north of Fort Lauderdale... A few sites in the Lake Worth Lagoon north of the City of Lake Worth have significant enrichment in metals... PAH’s and PCB’s also were detected slightly south of West Palm Beach.”* (<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/UF00099283/00001/2x>)

Marinas and boatyards are notorious for containing contaminated sediments, including Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH’s), organic contaminants, heavy metals and most notably tributyltin (TBT). TBT, a component of marine antifouling paints, is toxic to aquatic organisms such as mussels, clams, and oysters. At low levels, TBT can cause structural changes and growth retardation. TBT binds strongly to suspended particles such as minute organic material or inorganic sediments, it is well documented that TBT persists in marina/boatyard sediments. Lake Worth Lagoon is the location of extensive, publicly funded oyster reef restoration projects. Liberation and suspension of entombed TBT and other hazardous material can have a devastating impact on invertebrate reproduction, a component key to the success of Palm Beach County’s oyster habitat restoration, Peanut Island shallow-water reef habitat Snorkeling Lagoon and BHB limestone hardbottom recruitment project efforts.

## **Palm Beach County REEF RESCUE**

In addition to the above listed marina/boatyard related contaminants, there is a high likelihood agricultural and urban runoff pollutants may be present in sediments within the proposed port expansion footprint. The Port of Palm Beach receives runoff from the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). Contaminates present in EAA sediments can include arsenic, pesticides, herbicides, DDT and its degradation products. The South Florida Water Management District, Ambient Pesticide Monitoring Network Technical Publication 105 (October 2009) lists the following 21 most frequently detected pesticides, herbicides, Aroclors and degradation products found in EAA drainage sediments: aldrin, alpha endosulfan, ametryn, atrazine, bromacil, beta endosulfan, chlordane, dicofol, dieldrin, diquat, diuron, p,p'-DDD p,p'-DDE, p,p'-DDT, endosulfan sulfate, ethion, norflurazon, PCB-1016, PCB-1242, PCB-1254, PCB-1260.

([http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg\\_grp\\_tech\\_pubs/PORTLET\\_tech\\_pubs/sfwmd\\_105.pdf](http://my.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/pg_grp_tech_pubs/PORTLET_tech_pubs/sfwmd_105.pdf), Table 7)

It is imperative that prior to any dredging/excavation authorization, within this unique environmental/recreational setting, a full understanding of potential contaminants, routes of exposure and long-term effects on the public health, flora and fauna be assessed. The Draft ACOE Feasibility Report and EIS in its present form fails to address these issues.

**From:** [marypbarnett@aol.com](mailto:marypbarnett@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [johnrbarnett15@gmail.com](mailto:johnrbarnett15@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Dredging Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 9:21:50 PM

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John and Mary Barnett  
987 Palm Way  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 30, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn, Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn:

We are writing to you regarding the proposed dredging project to enlarge and deepen access to the Port of Palm Beach.

We are proud residents of Lost Tree Village, just north of the project, off of PGA Blvd. East (Jack Nicklaus Way). We take extreme pride in our community, and value all that it has to offer, which includes the beautiful Little Lake Worth which we frequently boat on. We object to this proposal, and to the filling in of areas to allow sea grass to grow. We feel it will negatively impact on the area, navigation and destroy the beauty of this water.

Because our summer home is in Toronto, Canada, this email is the best way we can show our support for stopping this proposal, but hope that you will take into consideration our letter and hopefully determine that the proposal is not in the best interest of the communities surrounding this area, and the beauty of our waters and life surrounding it.

Yours truly,

John and Mary Barnett

**From:** [Lisa James](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 2:05:07 PM

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Hello,

I am an avid scuba diver, REEF Fish ID Expert, and volunteer diver for Palm Beach County Reef Rescue Team. I have been scuba diving since 1999 and have traveled many places throughout the Caribbean as well as having logged over 1000 dives just off the SE Florida coast line alone. The types of species of fish and the abundance of them are extremely unique to this bridge area and should NEVER be disturbed. We are discovering new species of fish there all the time with many not yet documented. This area should be deemed a protected area because we don't know just how many more species there are there. It would be criminal to disrupt that environment and anyone that does so is doing the equivalent of chopping down a rainforest.

Lisa James  
[www.LisaJamesProperties.com](http://www.LisaJamesProperties.com)  
Direct: 561-345-4099

**From:** [Joseph M. Hickey](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach dredging project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:14:33 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn,

I have no argument with the goals of this project. However I strenuously object to using the north end of the lake (Turtle Cove) as a fill site. This area of the Lake Worth Lagoon is ideal for recreational boaters as well as dockage for rather sizable yachts. It is a pristine body of water unimpeded by commercial traffic. Using this as a fill site would certainly hamper navigation and diminish property values near the lake and on Little Lake Worth as well.

I sincerely hope that you will put the interests of property owners, environmentalists and those who enjoy the Lake ahead of commercial and/or economic factors. Thank you.

Best regards,

Joseph M. Hickey  
11260 Old Harbour Road,  
North Palm Beach, FL

**From:** [John Vighetto](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Reef Rescue public comment – Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:25:30 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Ms. Dunn,

As an avid diver, I urge the people wanting to proceed with this project to reconsider for the following reasons:

- 1) It will not only damage, but kill most, if not all of the current sea and plant life currently existing at this location.
- 2) People from around the country, if not the world, come here to swim, snorkel, dive, and photograph the existing marine life. This will not only impact the marine/plant life, but will also impact the local businesses that sell products and services to the various tourists that travel here.
- 3) It will take numerous years for this area to rejuvenate itself to its current stage. Will this loss of natural resources, and the local business, worth the possible thousands of dollars this project may bring in?

I'm sure that you have already been inundated with emails such as these. My question to you is this: how many emails have you received that encourage this project to continue for the only benefit of making local developers richer?

Thank you for your time. Have a nice day.

Regards,

John Vighetto

Vighetto Networking, Inc.

3965 Investment Lane

Suite A-9

Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Mobile: 561.722.1514

Fax: 561. 828.2232

Description: Description: Description: Description: Description: cid:image001.jpg@01C7A6A1.76F4F920  
<<http://www.vighettonetworking.com/>>



**From:** [Jim O'Reilly](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Dredging Project as it Pertains to The Lake Worth Inlet Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 4:07:37 PM

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Ms. Angela Dunn  
Project  
Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL

Dear Ms. Dunn,

As a resident of Lost Tree Village, please let this letter serve as my strong opposition to any proposed dumping of rock and or detritus from the Lake Worth Inlet project into Turtle Cove or the north end of Lake Worth Lagoon. These areas must continue to be left as is for the enjoyment of boaters and to preserve the value added for the waterfront community as well as the State of Florida. Nothing positive can come as a result of reducing the usable navigable waters of these areas. Another significant cause of concern is for the existing aquatic ecosystems that would be damaged as a result of the dumping from the Lake Worth Inlet dredging. I did not see any EIS work for the two areas of my concern.

I am not arguing here about the economic value and logistical necessity of the Lake Worth Inlet project- that is not the issue. I am opposing the depositing of the dredging material in such sensitive recreational areas. I would strongly urge the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to reevaluate their current proposal which would undoubtedly harm the Turtle Cove area and the north end of Lake Worth Lagoon by effectively being the dumping ground for this project. I am sure that there are far better locations and uses for such material.

I ask that you kindly put me on whatever "Interested Parties" notification or distribution list by e-mail that you have as it may pertain to notices, developments and or proceedings on this project. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this proposed project. I have the utmost confidence that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can effectively address this concern.

Respectfully yours,  
B.J. O'Reilly

**From:** [Jane Oristano](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 3:24:05 PM

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Sent from my iPad. I pray that you consider the damage to the environment if you go forward with your plans to dredge palm beach port. Please add our names to the list of residents who have opposed this project over the years. Thank you. Mr. And mrs. Victor Oristano

May 30, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

I learned today of the possible plan of the Army Corps of Engineers to dredge in the Port of Palm Beach and then deposit dredged material into the pristine area of Turtle Cove at the North end of Lake Worth. I protest this extremely unwise plan for several reasons.

Please refer to slide 9 of your "Integrated Feasibility Study and EIS" for your public meeting held on May 9. If you proceed to dump into areas identified on slide 9 as #1 and #2 "mitigation" sites you will damage the recreational use and the natural beauty in Turtle Cove and North Lake Worth and adjoining Little Lake Worth, you will diminish and harm the marine life in the area, you will directly hurt/lower my property value, and you will also harm navigation in these sites. Your proposed action to dump material dredged elsewhere into Turtle Cove is inappropriate and extremely harmful. My family and I are deeply opposed to it.

Let me add that a cursory look at slide 9 also shows that the distance for your barges to carry material for dumping in the primary "ODMDS" offshore site is no greater and probably less than if you haul/barge that same material to sites 1 and 2. Ergo, you will be paying as much or more to move the material to site 1 and site 2 as you will to move it to the principal ODMDS dumping site. It is stunning that you would be so unwise as to spend as much or more public money, with the side result of inflicting harm and financial cost on residents in the Northern Lake Worth area as you would spend to simply carry the material well offshore and dump it at the primary site.

Let me add also that the barging process itself to move material all the way to sites 1 and 2 would cause major disruption to the Northern Lake Worth area, not even considering the damage that the deposit of material would cause.

I ask you to immediately reconsider and absolutely not to deposit any additional material at or near sites 1 and 2 in Turtle Cove and the areas of and near to Northern Lake Worth/Little Lake Worth.



James Tullis  
1326 Lake Worth Lane  
N. Palm Beach, FL 33408

Cc: Hal Valeche  
Patrick Murphy  
Rick Bayliss

**From:** [Dianne Weinberg](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Important Concern  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:29:21 PM

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Hi Angela,

I am very concerned about the beach port expansion and its effects on the environment.

We have already done enough damage to kill marine life. At some point we need to stop, or else all ocean life will be gone. Plus, when the ocean life is gone, it has negative effects on human life as well. I hope you understand how important it is to stop the damage before its too late.

Thanks, Dianne

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [d2dev@aol.com](mailto:d2dev@aol.com)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach expansion  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 6:36:37 PM

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Dear Ms Dunn,

I just want to ask you to please reconsider or amend the plans for dredging that would greatly impact the Lake Worth Lagoon & most especially the area surrounding Blue Heron Bridge at Phil Foster Park. I live 5 minutes from a wonderful beach in Fort Lauderdale but I drive 50 minutes to go scuba diving at Phil Foster Park. This muck site is known worldwide for the unique & diverse life that can be found there & rarely anywhere else in South Florida. On my first dive there about 5 years ago I saw a stargazer, batfish, seahorse & flying gurnard on my first dive. With over a 1000 dives at that time I had only seen those once before & now see them (or at least one of them) on EVERY dive that I do there and that is just the beginning of the wonderful fish & critters that can be found at Phil Foster Park. This is a special place for divers & recently with the addition of a snorkel trail it has added interest for snorkelers & swimmers. Family's spend their day here watching the children enjoy the usually clear & calm water as sometimes this is a better option than taking them swimming in the ocean.

The dredging will, I am sure, have a very negative impact on the life here. I noticed major changes after the East bridge was redone & after major storms with prolonged wind & surge. Grass & algae that use to harbor many little shrimps nudibranchs & seahorses are scarce now & for sure will disappear if the dredging is so constant as 24/7 for 2 years.

Please reconsider

Sincerely

Deborah E Devers

954-695-5469

**From:** [Dan Volker](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** The Port Expansion Project  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 11:11:41 AM

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As a prime developer of Dive Resort Tourism in Palm Beach County, I see this Dredging project as the THEFT of a good financial future –the THEFT OF LIFESTYLE where the people of Riviera Beach today have a huge chance of gaining a great Tourism based Hospitality based economy from the expected influx of divers to Palm Beach County and the Riviera Beach area in the next 5 years.....

There is an expectation by the TDC and many others in the Hotel Association, that we will generate as many as 200,000 divers per summer, within 3 to 5 years of today...given the current projects and phenomenal results from our current marketing. We WILL be having Economics Models created to showcase the future with the Port Expansion, and how this would impact the lives of the local community....versus how a Tourism Economy like that enjoyed by the Florida Keys or Grand Cayman, would change the lives of the local community of Riviera Beach.

I feel strongly that this Port Project represents a severe THEFT of the FUTURE, and I am quite certain our Economic modeling will gain HUGE TV Play with local and National TV Stations, and the THEFT OF a community's FUTURE will make BIG NEWS HEADLINES.....This would be bad PR for the Army Corp of Engineers...and bad PR for the politicians driving this.

Dan Volker

See what this project would destroy at [www.facebook.com/WILD.DIVING](http://www.facebook.com/WILD.DIVING)

**From:** [Bob Abbe](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port Of Palm Beach expansion  
**Date:** Thursday, May 30, 2013 12:43:53 PM

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Dear Ms. Dunn

In regards to the proposed expansion of the Port Of Palm Beach, I would like to voice my concern regarding the negative impact that such construction would have upon the environment, specifically around the Blue Heron bridge and Peanut Island. There would be an extremely detrimental impact upon the sea life, both plant and marine creatures which quite possibly could eliminate the ability for snorkelers and divers to enjoy and which could curtail scientific studies of these living organisms. This area is a unique area for performing such wonderful activities and I would hate to see it gone from the ocean forever. If anything, it would take years and probably decades to rejuvenate/restore the environment to pre-construction status.

While economic interests are in mind in bringing extra revenue into the area, there would be a significant reduction as well should the area be negatively impacted. We see more and more of our vital coral reefs being decimated due to all kinds of activities and this is one activity which will result in further destruction.

Please add my voice to the many others who are against this project.  
Thank you!

Sincerely,

Robert P. Abbe





*Twelve Oaks Condominium Association, Inc.  
1353 Twelve Oaks Way, North Palm Beach Fl. 33408-3234  
one: (561) 626-6878 Fax: (561) 626-2357*

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Dear Ms. Angela Dunn,

**RE: USACE Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - EIS for LWI, PB Harbor**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities,





*Twelve Oaks Condominium Association, Inc.*  
*1353 Twelve Oaks Way, North Palm Beach Fl. 33408-3234*  
*one: (561) 626-6878      Fax: (561) 626-2357*

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- requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

  
Rachel Flanagan, President

In addition to the above we would like to bring the following concerns to your attention.

1. Nothing should be changed or altered absent consent of 12 Oaks HOA and 12 Oaks HOA marina owners.
2. Nothing should be done that impairs our access to the inland waterway or 12 Oaks Marina including navigability of our access channels.
3. Nothing should be done that obstructs, impairs or otherwise damages the scenic view and appearance of Turtle Cove currently enjoyed by adjacent property owners. The current appearance adds value to our property and should not be damaged.
4. Alternative options should be explored, including a properly constructed, maintained and controlled mooring field to address the concerns about permanent or transient anchored boats.
5. No dredge material should be placed that would negatively impact current sealife and vegetation.

**From:** [Ted Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Palm Beach Port Expansion  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 4:18:13 PM

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I like the economic benefits of the port expansion, so i can't in good conscience say "Don't do it." But the artificial reef under the Blue Heron Bridge is a very special place and everything should be done to preserve it.

I have no idea how the reef could be protected. It seems very difficult. But there are greater minds at work on this than mine, and I hope there's some way to prevent silt from covering the area during the tidal flow.

Thank you.

Ted

-----  
Ted Johnson  
303-506-7804  
Lake Worth, FL

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." — Dr. Seuss

**From:** [Susan Lovejoy](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Turtle Cove Project  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 12:49:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Scan0022.pdf](#)

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May 31, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Ms. Dunn,

The proposed Turtle Cove Project at the north end of Lake Worth that is being suggested by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preposterous.

This suggested project is nothing more than a dumping site of contaminated sand being placed off my dock, in a pristine cove, at the very end of Lake Worth Lagoon.

The high taxes I pay living on the water each year ought to give me more than one vote. If not, the turtles would win again.

Why not give them a vote at the polls? They already own all of the Florida Beaches.

Fed up and angry,

Susan Lovejoy  
11265 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

[susanlovejoy@bellsouth.net](mailto:susanlovejoy@bellsouth.net)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") dated April 2013 for proposed construction activities at the Port of Palm Beach. The plan promulgated by the Army Corps would deepen and widen the channels within the Port. According to the EIS, the impacts caused by the project would include the loss of both seagrass habitat and hardbottom habitat, for which mitigation is required. The list of potential seagrass mitigation sites includes a portion of Lake Worth Lagoon known as "Turtle Cove."

The purpose of this communication is to register a formal objection to seagrass mitigation activities within Turtle Cove and to request that the Turtle Cove site be removed from the list of potential mitigation sites. Last year, Palm Beach County applied for a permit from the Army Corps to cap approximately forty-two (42) acres of muck sediment with 640,000 cubic yards of sand within Turtle Cove in an effort to create 37.8 acres of seagrass habitat. A large portion of this area is immediately adjacent to two existing communities, Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks, and one approved (although not yet constructed) multi-family development, the Water Club. In response to strenuous objections from the Village of North Palm Beach and other stakeholders, the County withdrew its permit application and stated this site would no longer be considered for seagrass mitigation activities.

While the seagrass mitigation activities proposed by the Army Corps may not be of the same magnitude as the County's prior application, the proposed project has the same potential for negative impacts to both adjacent properties and the Lagoon itself. Specifically:

- The fill is likely to result in the accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks around the Lagoon, at the entrance to and within the canal leading into Little Lake Worth, and within the marinas at Old Port Cove and Twelve Oaks (and proposed marina at The Water Club), which lie directly in the path of the tidal flow. Obstructing the entrance to Little Lake Worth could result in a "dead zone" body of water. A prior fill operation near the Monastery property had similar impacts, even though this project was much closer to shore and out of the path of the tidal flow.
- The project could eradicate the existing sea life in the currently pristine Lagoon during the course of the project.
- The project would negatively impact navigation in the area, causing vessel congestion around the perimeter of the project. The project encroaches upon an existing, long-established marked and maintained navigation channel.
- The project would encroach on the riparian rights of surrounding property owners, decrease property values, and negatively impact the surrounding communities, requiring these property owners, including the marinas, to dredge and restore their waterfront.

Given that prior Munyon Island remediation projects have failed to substantially improve the aquatic environment, I am concerned that the proposed seagrass habitat will be neither viable nor nurtured. I do not believe that any potential benefits of the project, if realized, will outweigh the continued viability of Little Lake Worth, the impediments to navigation and the impairment of riparian rights in the general vicinity of the project.

Sincerely yours,

Susan P. Sonejoy  
11265 Old Hardaway Road  
N. Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [Scott Shapiro](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Peanut island  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 3:34:54 PM

---

Hello, I really hope construction does not go through. It would be a shame to muddy the clear waters and displace marine life

Thanks

Scott

Sent from my iPhone



(850) 521-1700  
[KScott@gunster.com](mailto:KScott@gunster.com)

May 31, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

*Via E-Mail only* [Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)

RE: Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach County, Florida;  
Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, National  
Pilot Planning Project

Dear Ms. Dunn:

Our firm represents Palm Beach Enterprises, LLC ("PBE"), an entity which owns two residences in the Lost Tree Village community adjacent to the so titled Turtle Cove Lagoon ("Turtle Cove"). PBE is highly concerned with the mitigation activities proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers involving Turtle Cove in its April 2013 Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement (the "EIS") (together, the "Study") relating to the Lake Worth Inlet. Public comments are due on the Study by June 3, 2013. Thus, our comments are timely filed.

As the owner of two residential waterfront properties in the Turtle Cove area, PBE would be directly and negatively impacted by the proposed project as its properties are located adjacent to Turtle Cove, an area identified by the Study as a "potential mitigation site." The Study estimates that 4.5 acres of seagrass habitat will be affected as a result of the widening and deepening of the channel entering Palm Beach Harbor. As a result of these environmental impacts, it is estimated that mitigation compensation for seagrasses will fall into the 8.25 to 11.25 acre range. Coordination between the Federal and State resource agencies will determine the final mitigation required to compensate for the project's impacts to seagrasses within Lake Worth Inlet. The Study reports that seagrass habitat will be restored by filling old borrow areas located within Lake Worth to result in a minimum surface area of 8.25 acres of new seagrass beds.

According to the Study, a total of ten options have been identified that could serve as full or partial mitigation for impacts to seagrasses and hardbottoms within Lake Worth Lagoon. Turtle Cove is among the ten proposed mitigation sites.

Turtle Cove is a healthy, thriving ecosystem which is regularly utilized for boating, fishing, and recreational purposes by the people in the local community. The majority of the homeowners surrounding Turtle Cove are boat owners who regularly enjoy activities on Turtle



Cove. There are two flourishing, commercial large-yacht marinas and one multi-family docking facility in Turtle Cove. As such, there is a high level of apprehension that the current recreational and economic conditions will be irretrievably damaged by the designation of Turtle Cove as a mitigation site.

The upheaval associated with such a long term project would effectively disallow all local property owners their use and enjoyment of their properties and Turtle Cove, infringing on their riparian rights. The proposed mitigation site in Turtle Cove appears to be squarely in the riparian area of the property owners. Additionally, the proposed mitigation site falls directly in the path of the well-marked and long recognized channel. During such mitigation activities, the channel would be blocked causing significant impediments to channel access for both local boat owners and commercial craft from the local marinas.

More than likely, navigation in Turtle Cove would be disturbed far past the term of the project itself. The proposed mitigation will greatly reduce the depth of Turtle Cove, so much so that it would make it impossible for residents to continue to use their boats as they have done in the past. In fact, in 2012, when Palm Beach County proposed a similar mitigation project, it was estimated that placing of the fill in the old borrow areas would result in a loss of depth in the Turtle Cove waterway from 17 feet to 6 feet, thus making it impossible for residents to continue use of boats requiring drafting and larger vessels that require more clearance.

The long term disturbances associated with the project would include the presence of barges and booms in front of the properties for an indeterminate period of time. The massive amount of fill that would be placed in the area as part of mitigation would, more than likely, cause an accumulation of silt adjacent to the docks in Turtle Cove causing an extreme detrimental effect of the residents' enjoyment of outdoor activities. Water quality issues and other wildlife impacts are potential negative offshoots of the project and could result in irreparable harm.

Additionally, property taxes continue to rise in the area but no thought appears to have been given to the detrimental effect of such a project on residents' property values.

The Study expounds that the final site chosen for restoration as mitigation will be determined on several factors which include:

- If the site is a good candidate for cost-effective hauling or pumping of borrow material from the project site for the purpose of topographic restoration (subject to a cost-feasibility analysis);
- If the site experiences a relatively calm but well-circulated tidal current and little or no daily perturbations from boating activities; and
- If there are sites within the hole that can be restored to seagrass over a sufficient area to achieve the desired amount of mitigation.

It seems apparent that while these factors are enumerated in the Study, little to no consideration has been given to them when considering the current uses of Turtle Cove, a busy and bustling area highly utilized by boaters and other recreational users on a daily basis. In fact, the Study appears to contain no specific reports or information on the potential mitigation sites other than the data gathered from outside sources previously put together for other purposes.

The National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") is our basic national charter for protection of the environment. 40 CFR 1500.1(a). Here, NEPA is being utilized to protect seagrasses that are being disturbed by a project, primarily being undertaken for economic, not environmental, purposes, without full consideration of the environmental harms that will be done to the areas proposed as potential mitigation areas, including Turtle Cove. The Study does not provide sufficient information as to the ripple effect on the areas that may be chosen as areas of mitigation and what environmental impacts will be felt as a result of such designation. In fact, the Study provides no information whatsoever on harmful environmental effects on the areas identified as potential mitigation sites. The absence of this information is certainly not in the spirit of NEPA.

We would also ask that further study be given to proposed reasonable alternatives to restoration and mitigation efforts in Turtle Cove as insufficient information is provided on the environmental effects the proposed restoration method would have on Turtle Cove. We believe that the Study fails to provide any analysis required by NEPA as to the ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health impacts, whether adverse or beneficial to the Turtle Cove area. 40 CFR 1502.15; 40 CFR 1508.8(b). This is unacceptable as environmental effects must be considered not only for the main channel widening project but also for any areas chosen as mitigation areas in the project.

The draft EIS must identify the mitigation alternatives and evaluate them for potential impacts on the human environment. When an agency prepares an EIS, it must include mitigation measures among the alternatives compared in the EIS. The Center for Environmental Quality's January 14, 2011 Guidance Memorandum on the Appropriate Use of Mitigation and Monitoring and Clarifying the Appropriate Use of Mitigated Findings of No Significant Impact reinforces the NEPA policy of providing opportunity for public comment on alternatives, including alternative mitigation measures. While ten mitigation alternatives were presented in the Study, no analysis of the effect on the human environment of each mitigation alternative was included. These reasonably foreseeable significant adverse impacts on the human environment from proposed mitigation at Turtle Cove must also be fully evaluated, with opportunity for public comment. Pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.22, the agency shall always make it clear when information is lacking when evaluating reasonably foreseeable significant adverse effects on the human environment in an EIS. If the incomplete information relevant to the effects is essential to a reasoned choice among alternatives and the overall costs of obtaining it are not exorbitant, the agency shall include the information in the EIS. Here, information on the impacts of the mitigation alternatives is available without exorbitant costs but yet is still not provided. The agency must collect, present to the public, and evaluate information on the effects on the human environment of each mitigation alternative before committing to implement a mitigation plan.



We further question the methodology and scientific accuracy utilized in the Study in its discussion of the validity of restoration of seagrasses as the preferred method of mitigation. In fact, the Study itself mentions that restoration of seagrass communities is still considered experimental "by some resource agencies" but, yet, the Study chooses to rely solely on this method of mitigation. While restoration as mitigation may be a burgeoning field, mitigation proposed for this project should be based on proven methods and efficacy of such methods. Even if restoration is "quickly becoming a proven resource management tool" as stated in the Study, further research should be conducted to determine if conditions are appropriate for restoration such as mitigation.

Finally, the Study explains that potential seagrass impacts were reduced from 14 acres of impact to the now proposed 4.5 acres of impact with the reduction in dredge area for the tentatively selected plan. But, no further discussion of potential further reduction or elimination of seagrass impacts is included in the Study. Additional analysis of alternatives that include further reductions in seagrass impacts is necessary considering the extent of seagrass impacts proposed and the high value of seagrass habitats. Since one of the criteria for selecting the mitigation site is sufficient area to mitigate impacts, additional mitigation alternatives may be available if the amount of seagrass impact is reduced.

As such, we urge you to remove Turtle Cove from the areas being considered as seagrass mitigation areas. We are happy to provide further information if so requested.

Additionally, please also consider this letter a request to be added to the list of interested parties in this matter so that we can be copied on all further notices and correspondence.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (850) 521-1700.

Sincerely,



Kellie Scott

cc: Charlie Isiminger [cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com](mailto:cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com)  
Lucy Surchik [LSurchik@wмитеam.com](mailto:LSurchik@wмитеam.com)  
Robert Robbins [RRobbins@co.palm-beach.fl.us](mailto:RRobbins@co.palm-beach.fl.us)

**From:** [L. Goldman](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron project  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 11:38:52 PM

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Please do not go through with this project. There must be another way to accomplish your goals without destroying the ecosystem that's so vital to Palm Beach County's waterways.

There are numerous resources, people, and organizations you can consult with to find alternatives to this destructive project.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.

Respectfully,

Lisa Goldman

**From:** [Jacqui Beckwith](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 3:35:04 PM

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Dear Angela,

Thank you for your email....very concerned about this activity in the area....i was diving there last Saturday and the parking lot was packed with divers. It would be a disaster to have this unique spot impacted by the building of a pier. I have found it best to have a simple form letter response so that people can click and send.

*Jacqui Beckwith*

**From:** [I nelson](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 11:08:51 PM

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I am against the

This 100 million dollar plan, that is expected to last two years and may seriously impact the environment at the Blue Heron Bridge and Peanut Island. The blasting and silt will also carry out onto the reefs and impact the dolphins, whales and other marine life that migrate along our coast.

ilene nelson

Mrs. Gretchen L. Schaefer  
11459 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

May 31, 2013

Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: Turtle Cove Project

Dear Ms. Dunn:

My recently deceased husband, Conrad W. Schaefer and I have lived in North Palm Beach and on Lake Worth Lagoon for over 30 years. My husband was a widely respected Professional Engineer in Palm Beach County. He was also experienced in marine matters as having served as head of the Palm Beach County Artificial Reef Committee. This made him qualified and instrumental in expressing strong opposition over the proposed Turtle Cove Project. He voiced his concerns at last years public meetings on this project. He believed using the lagoon as a sand dumping ground would be inadvisable and would have disastrous consequences to the lagoon and the surrounding area for the following reasons:

1. Cause severe accumulation of silt to nearby bridges, docks, canals and marinas
2. Eradicate existing sea life in the lagoon
3. Cause boating congestion and navigational safety concerns in the area.
4. Decrease property values around the lagoon

I was given to understand the permit for this project was denied since last years public meeting was cancelled for June 12, 2012. Now much to my dismay, the Turtle Cove Project is again in the planning stages through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Port of Palm Beach dredging project. Please be advised that I am totally opposed to this mitigation project. In addition, I ask that the Turtle Cove Project be removed from the "Lake Worth Lagoon Plan" forever.

Respectfully,

Gretchen L. Schaefer  
11459 Old Harbour Road  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

**From:** [Elaine Blum](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port of Palm Beach expansion  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 9:28:39 AM

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I know the decision has been made. Money and progress always takes precedence over the unique and fragile marine habitat. I need not bother to list the many species of animals that will be impacted by this project. That list will not deter progress.

I have been diving @ Phil Foster Park and the areas just outside the Palm Beach inlet for over 10 yrs. I have witnessed the devastation of Mother Nature during that time and the damages that resulted. Mother natures wrath is not something we can prevent. Nature recovers on its own pace but it recovers. Nature has more trouble recovering from the repeated impact of mans progress.

What we can prevent is man made devastation in the name of progress and the almighty dollar as well as mans greed. This fragile and unique ecosystem most likely won't be able to fully recover from the man made expansion of the Port of Palm Beach. I have seen a steady decline in the health and livelihood of the areas immediately surrounding the port in the past 10yrs. The decline mainly the result of dredging projects and the unneeded beach re nourishment projects throughout south Florida. Resulting in the smothering of soft and hard corals. The nesting of several protected species of sea turtles has also been impacted from these so called approved and supervised projects also.

Once again the marine ecosystem will suffer in the name of man's progress. Nothing I can say or others say will impact what is already a done deal. This public comment session is just a formality. Let the death of the reef which so many people depend on for tourism dollars and just life in general be on your heads. Your grand children will not have an ocean filled with bio diverse and abundant marine creatures to show their children.

Elaine Blum  
PADI MSDT #193590  
561-523-7061

**From:** [Charles C. Isiminger](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Morgan \(morganr@gate.net\)](#); ["rvail@kolter.com"](#); ["John Kosak \(jkosak@cpprov.org\)"](#)  
([jkosak@cpprov.org](#)); [Jason Pilalas \(jasonpilalas@earthlink.net\)](#); [jandrpilalas@earthlink.net](#);  
["jim@jjproduce.com"](#) ([jim@jjproduce.com](#)); [lsurchik@wmiteam.com](#); [DOMERIC PAPARONE](#)  
([paparonehomes@gmail.com](#)); [DOMENICK PAPARONE \(Paphomes@aol.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** Lake Worth Inlet Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and EIS  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 3:31:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [12025.COE.OC.02.pdf](#)  
[USCG LIGHT LIST.pdf](#)  
[11472 BookletChart Excerpt.pdf](#)  
[Passionist Monastery Picture.pdf](#)

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Ms. Dunn,

Please accept the attached letter with attachments as Public Comments on the Corp's Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Worth Inlet project. The comments are being filed on behalf of the parties listed in the letter.

Please let us know if you need further information. Thank you.

Charlie

Isiminger & Stubbs Engineering, Inc.  
649 U.S. Hwy 1, Suite 9  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408  
Office: (561) 881-0003  
Fax: (561) 881-8123  
Email: [cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com](mailto:cisiminger@coastal-engineers.com)

Attention:

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# ISIMINGER & STUBBS ENGINEERING, INC.

## PRINCIPALS:

Charles C. Isiminger, P.E.  
Darwin C. Stubbs, P.E.

COASTAL • ENVIRONMENTAL • MARINE

## ASSOCIATES:

Mark A. Powell, P.E.  
Matthew D. Buller, P.E.

May 31, 2013

VIA E-MAIL [Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil](mailto:Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil)

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Attn: Ms. Angela Dunn

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement  
Lake Worth Inlet, Palm Beach County, Florida

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are writing this letter on behalf of Old Port Cove Holdings, Inc, Domani Development, LLC, Passionist Monastery of Our Lady of Florida, Inc., James Erneston, Pilalas Trust, Palm Beach Enterprises, LLC, and Domenick Paparone. These property owners are riparian waterfront owners surrounding the north end of Lake Worth. Together they own approximately 1 mile of shoreline on the west, north, and east shorelines.

We have reviewed the recently released Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (hereinafter "Report") which was prepared for the potential Lake Worth Inlet/Palm Beach Harbor deepening project. That Report identifies a preferred mitigation site which is called "Turtle Cove" in the Report. The Report indicates the location of "Turtle Cove" as the extreme north end of Lake Worth. This area has never been known as "Turtle Cove." That name was coined by Palm Beach County, who last year proposed the filling of this area ostensibly for seagrass creation, then withdrew their permit applications and shelved their plan based on cohesive and strenuous objections from affected property owners and navigation interests.

The property owners identified above continue their strenuous objection to the use of their riparian area as spoil disposal and mitigation creation. The so-called "Turtle Cove" mitigation area is in their riparian area, which extends to a marked, permitted channel running through the approximate center of the area. This channel is marked by federally approved and charted Private Aids to Navigation (PATONs). We attach a copy of the USCG Light List which identifies this as the Old Port Cove channel and lists and locates the markers. We also attach a copy of the NOAA BookletChart Excerpt which shows this channel. The County did not seem to be aware of the facts relating to this channel when they initially conceived the "Turtle Cove" project.

Old Port Cove Holdings, Inc., the permit holder for the channel markers, is one of the riparian owners represented herein and noted above. They are also the owner of two major, economically significant marinas extending into the subject area from the west shore. Both of these are long existing and recently rebuilt at significant expense, and both cater to megayachts, which use the channel for ingress and egress. Another riparian owner represented herein and noted above is Domani Development, LLC, which has a federal permit for construction of a multi-family boat facility into the subject waterbody. Another is Passionist Monastery of Our Lady of Florida, Inc. (photo attached), which values tranquility, which would be lost during construction of any mitigation project in their mitigation area, and which would also lose any potential property value from future marina potential. The private individuals represented herein and noted above have bought their properties in consideration of the considerable depths in the waterbody. At least three of them currently own large yachts which benefit from the depths in the area. These depths exceed the depths otherwise available in the local area, and this is reflected in the local property values.

We have serious concerns not just related to infringement of riparian rights and filling of a permitted, marked, and charted channel, but also with interference with navigation in the area, stability of the proposed fill, displacement of muck, shoaling of adjacent areas including the riparian areas of the parties noted above, turbidity and other water quality issues, other potential environmental impacts including filling of an existing productive area, construction impacts, economic impacts to an existing commercial marina and riparian private property values, and other factors. We believe that the project may adversely affect the fishing or recreational values or marine productivity in the vicinity of the activity by filling in an area that is currently used for anchoring, boating and fishing. We believe that the project area in its current condition is providing a high functional value of recreational, economic, and environmental benefits.

We do not believe that the physics of the proposed project have ever been evaluated. Fill to this elevation on the middle of a wide, deep waterbody could easily be displaced by significant weather events such as tropical storms and hurricanes. During these events, it is likely that the sediment would spread. Not only would this render the mitigation unsustainable, but it would further restrict navigation in the area.

We believe that the Report provides insufficient detail for the public to evaluate the mitigation alternatives. For instance, the location is shown as a dot on a map. If reliance is being made on the County's work, as is implied, it should be noted that the County admitted that more work should have been done up front, and then withdrew their application for the project. We believe that NEPA requires further study, further analysis of mitigation alternatives, further notice, and further opportunity for public comment. The Report does not include any of the NEPA required analysis of the ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health impacts to the so-called "Turtle Cove" area. These effects must be considered for the mitigation areas as well as the project itself.

Page 3  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
May 31, 2012

On behalf of the riparian owners noted above, please remove the so-called "Turtle Cove" seagrass mitigation area from consideration for the referenced Palm Beach Harbor project. Additionally, please consider this letter a request to be added to the list of interested parties in this matter so that we can be copied on all further notices and correspondence. Please copy us at the letterhead address or by e-mail on all notices and correspondence relating to this project, including correspondence to and from other parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

ISIMINGER & STUBBS ENGINEERING, INC.



Charles C. Isiminger, P.E.

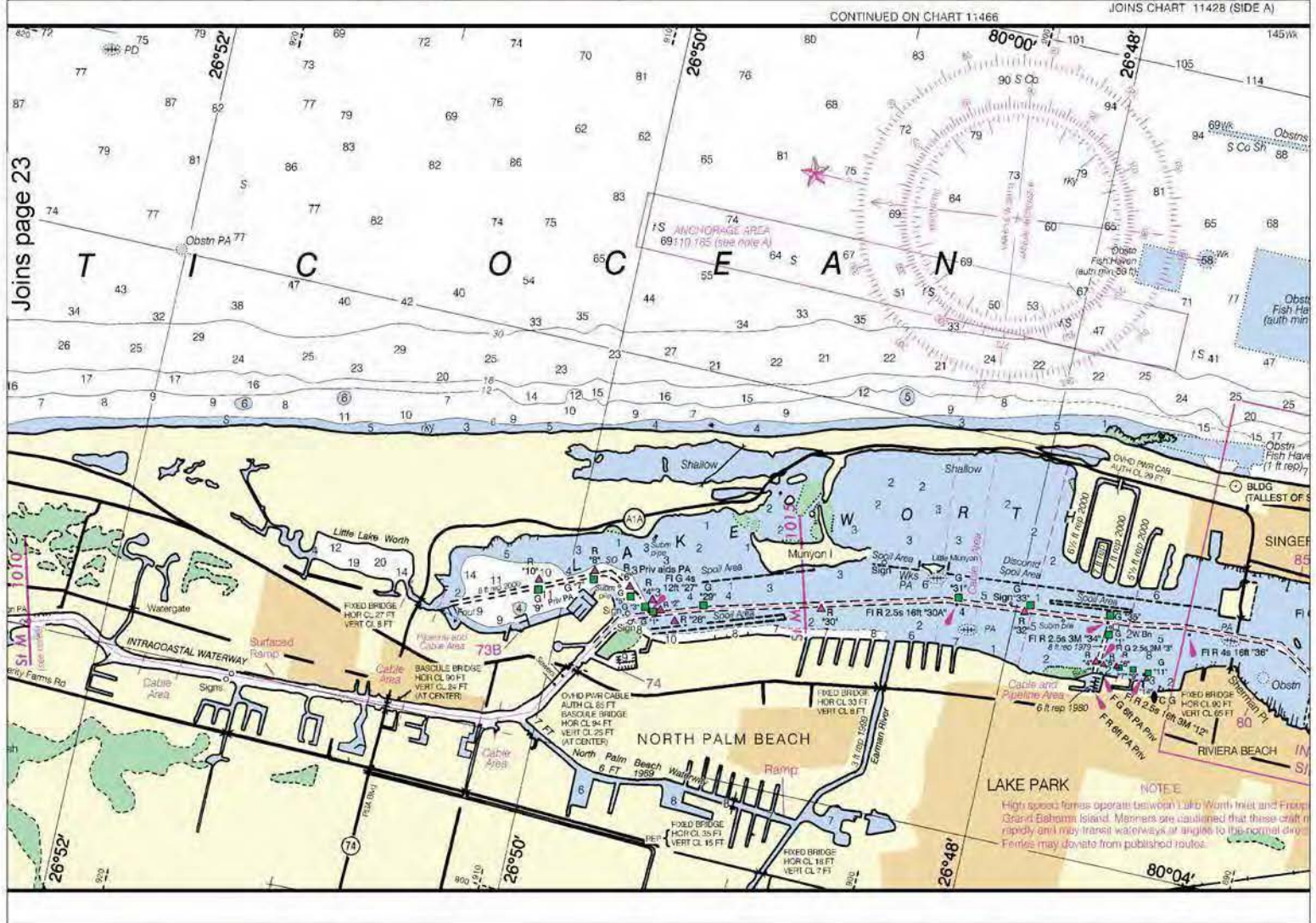
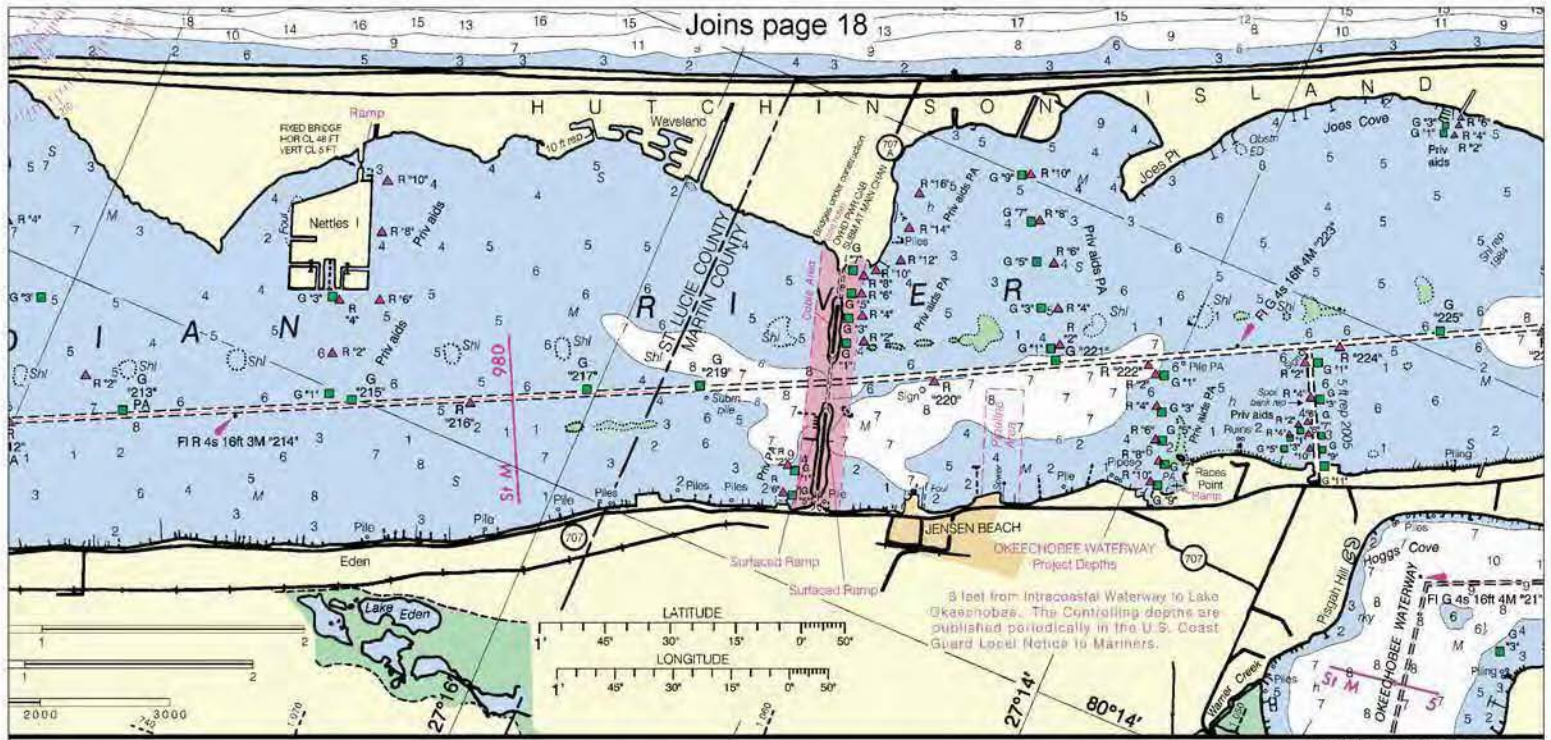
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cc: Rick Morgan, Old Port Cove Holdings, Inc.  
Bob Vail, Domani Development, LLC  
John Kosak, Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center  
Jim Erneston  
Jason Pilalas  
Lucy Surchik, Palm Beach Enterprises, LLC  
Dom Paparone



(1)G No.G	(2)G Name and ocationG	(3)G PositionG	(4)G CharacteristicG	(5)G HeightG	(6)G Range	(7)G Structur	(8)G RemarksG
<b>INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY (Florida) - Seventh DistrictH</b>							
<b>PALM SHORES TO WEST PALM BEACH (Chart 11472)H</b>							
<b>St. Lucie Inlet - Jupiter InlethH</b>							
<b>Lake Worth CreekH</b>							
46420G	- Daybeacon 21	26-54-11.570NG 080-04-32.830WG				SG-SY on pile.G	
46425G	- Daybeacon 23	26-53-58.822NG 080-04-29.079WG				SG-SY on pile.G	
46430G	- IGH 25	26-53-47.943NG 080-04-28.926WG	Q G	16G	3G	SG-SY on pile.G	
<b>Cypress Island MarinaH</b>							
46431G	- Daybeacon 1	26-53-25.220NG 080-04-24.040WG				SG on pile.G	Private aid.G
46432G	- Daybeacon 2	26-53-25.656NG 080-04-24.517WG				TR on pile.G	Private aid.G
<b>St. Lucie Inlet - Jupiter InlethH</b>							
<b>Lake Worth NorthH</b>							
46435G	- IGH 27	26-49-36.566NG 080-03-14.996WG	FI G 4sG	12G	4G	SG-SY on pile.G	
<b>Old Port CoveH</b>							
46440G	- Daybeacon 1	26-49-35.525NG 080-03-14.504WG				SG on pile.G	Private aid.G
46445G	- Daybeacon 2	26-49-33.679NG 080-03-13.364WG				TR on pile.G	Private aid.G
46450G	- Daybeacon 3	26-49-37.854NG 080-03-13.562WG				SG on pile.G	Private aid.G
46455G	- Daybeacon 4	26-49-36.273NG 080-03-11.127WG				TR on pile.G	Private aid.G
46460G	- Daybeacon 5	26-49-42.380NG 080-03-11.467WG				SG on pile.G	Private aid.G
46465G	- Daybeacon 6	26-49-42.920NG 080-03-09.447WG				TR on pile.G	Private aid.G
46470G	- Daybeacon 7	26-49-53.020NG 080-03-08.447WG				SG on pile.G	Private aid.G
46475G	- Daybeacon 8	26-49-53.420NG 080-03-06.347WG				TR on pile.G	Private aid.G
46480G	- Daybeacon 9	26-50-07.219NG 080-03-13.548WG				SG on pile.G	Private aid.G
46485G	- Daybeacon 10	26-50-07.919NG 080-03-13.948WG				TR on pile.G	Private aid.G
<b>Lake Worth NorthH</b>							
46490G	- Daybeacon 28	26-49-29.349NG 080-03-15.851WG				TR-TY on pile.G	
46495G	- Daybeacon 29	26-49-22.607NG 080-03-09.405WG				SG-SY on pile.G	
46500G	- Daybeacon 30	26-48-51.474NG 080-03-02.912WG				TR-TY on pile.G	
46505G	- IGH 30A	26-48-15.997NG 080-02-52.056WG	FI R 2.5sG	16G	3G	TR-TY on pile.G	
46510G	- Daybeacon 31	26-48-15.881NG 080-02-50.306WG				SG-SY on pile.G	
46515G	- Daybeacon 32	26-47-57.598NG 080-02-50.069WG				TR-TY on pile.G	
46520G	- Daybeacon 33	26-47-56.490NG 080-02-47.757WG				SG-SY on pile.G	
46525G	- IGH 34	26-47-34.004NG 080-02-47.808WG	FI R 2.5sG	16G	3G	TR-TY on dolphin.G	
46526G	- Daybeacon 35	26-47-34.805NG 080-02-45.506WG				SG-SY on pile.G	
46527G	ake Park Channel Shoal DaybeaconG	26-47-32.494NG 080-02-48.427WG				NW on pile worded G DANGER SHOA .G	
<b>Lake Park MarinaH</b>							
46530G	- Daybeacon 1	26-47-34.051NG 080-02-51.269WG				SG on pile.G	
46535G	- IGH 3	26-47-34.898NG 080-02-59.545WG	FI G 2.5sG	16G	3G	SG on dolphin.G	



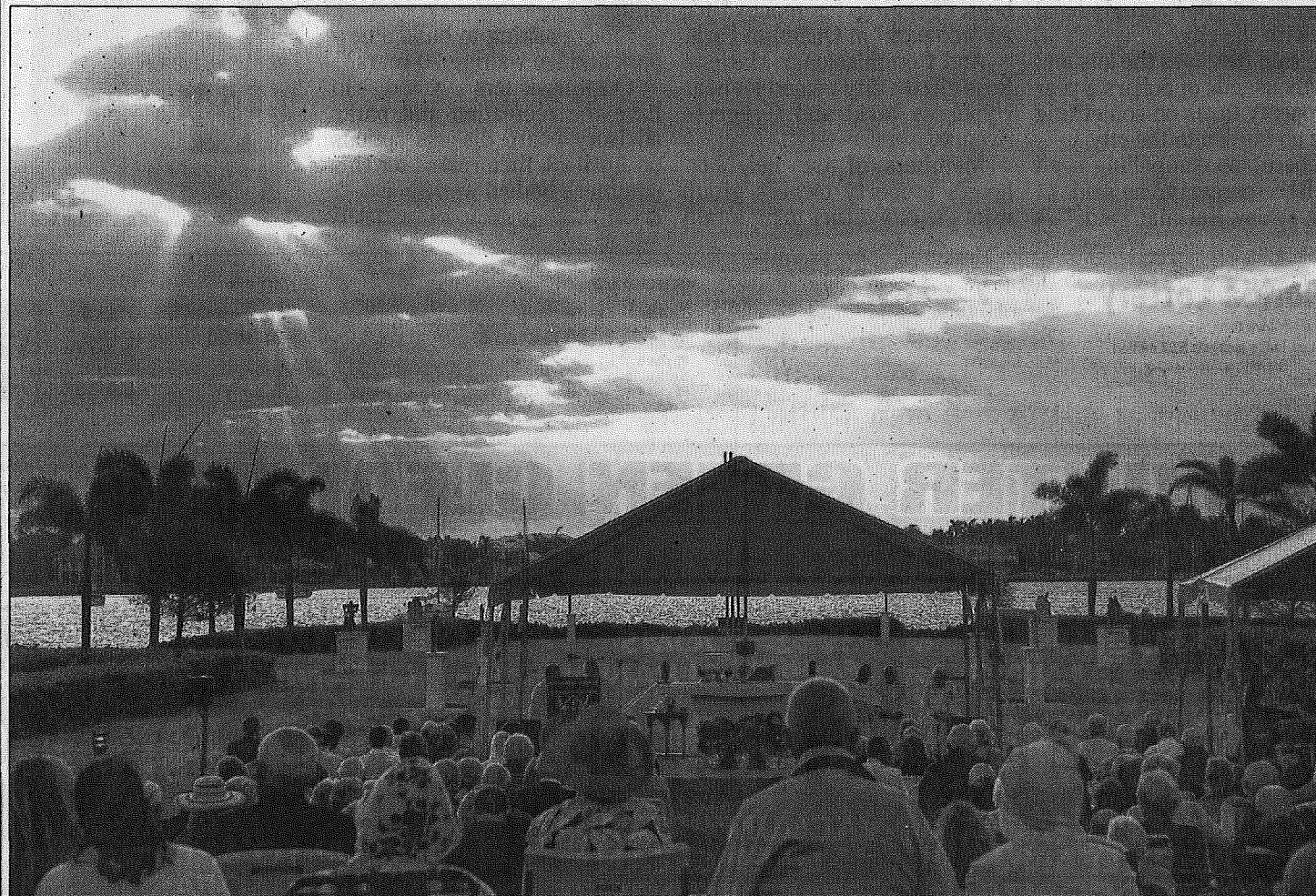


Note: Chart grid lines are aligned with true north.



**NORTH PALM BEACH** *Easter Sunday*

# SUNRISE SPECTACULAR



THOMAS CORDY/Staff Photographer

**NORTH PALM BEACH** — Worshippers gather for a sunrise Easter Sunday service at the Passionist Monastery of Our Lady of Florida. More than 100 people attended the 7 a.m. service. The monastery is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

**From:** [Caleb Kaufman](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAI](#)  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 9:30:10 AM

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why does the Port of Palm Beach need...expanding?

Caleb

**From:** [Bruce Dash](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Port Construction  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 6:56:42 PM

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To whom this concerns,

I have lived in Palm Beach County for 35 years, most of my life. We barely get one project completed before the Officials embark on another. Many have huge impacts on residents. We tolerate a lot and sometimes accomplish little.

After reading a partial scope of this project I have huge concerns and questions.

1. The need of this project ?
2. The cost vs. benefit involved ?
3. Have all the studies been exhausted to justify this project at all ?
4. Looking at the Port of Palm Beach, it has never had a stable budget, commercial ships that come and go. Just last week Tropical Shipping suddenly wants to knock down the fairly new office complex for storage. Loss of rent for the Port would be possibly lost.
5. Outside profitable enterprises seem to be driving these non- urgent projects.
6. What is the Status of the INLAND PORT ? A huge project that no one really knows about or understand / and or care.
7. Many Public Hearings need to be held for Public Input.

I would appreciate a response that does not comprise of brief answers. There are many of us that live and use this wonderful area.

Too many major changes without in-depth planning leads to living with poor results !

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Dash  
Town of Palm Beach Division Chief, Retired  
561.389.0120  
email : Gradybdash@aol.com



**From:** [Bill Barnes](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Corp of Engineers proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 6:13:26 PM

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Ms. Angela Dunn  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Planning Division, Environmental Branch  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019  
Phone: (904) 232-2108  
Email: Angela.E.Dunn@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Dunn,

Please do not let the Corp of Engineers proceed with the proposed expansion of the Port of Palm Beach.

The siltation on the incoming tide could easily destroy the delicate marine environment that we are even now just starting to understand.

Many amazing sea creatures (and fish for lack of a better word) inhabit this delicate environment.

Many deep water fish use this area as a stopping point in their life cycle for the juvenile stage to grow into an adult before heading out to sea.

Many ocean creatures come to this area to find mates, fertilize, and release or lay their eggs.

Blue Heron Bridge is a unique mixture of marine life that is not present anywhere else in the US. Very few places in the United States, if not North America, can boast the diversity and species associated with Blue Heron.

Hundreds of documented species of fish frequent this area. There are even four as yet unnamed species of sea spiders that call this area home.

From the unappreciated manatee, to the huge Goliath grouper, to frilly seahorse, to the tiny nudibranch, they all share this fragile ecosystem.

I do not feel that adequate research has been done or could be done to verify that one or even a dozen of these species will not be wiped out in the two years it would take to finish this project.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours.

Bill Barnes  
2501 SE 1st CT  
Pompano Beach FL 33062  
870-930-4969

**From:** [A BARBEAU](#)  
**To:** [Dunn, Angela E SAJ](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Heron Bridge dive site  
**Date:** Friday, May 31, 2013 10:35:10 AM

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Ms Dunn,

As a South Florida resident, PADI scuba instructor, and avid world traveler, I have to let you know what a valuable a resource the magnificent dive site at Blue Heron Bridge is for everyone. Within this small spot, exists a more concentrated collection of sea creatures and sea life than almost anywhere else on the planet. We have an aquarium in our back yard which so many people can interactively experience by stepping into as little as 5 feet of water, whether they are divers, snorkelers, or swimmers.

To wipe out such an aquatic resource, with the blasting, dredging, and enlargement of the inlet channel is to undermine the web of "infrastructure" that nature has created for the well being of the environment. Can we really afford to always choose Big Business' interests over Mother Nature? Would it not be a better choice to investigate alternative ways of enhancing the economic viability of the Port by choosing other places?

Hopefully the Blue Heron Bridge dive site at the park will be made into a marine sanctuary and not a sand pit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Alexis Barbeau

Alexis Barbeau Designs

[www.seametal.com](http://www.seametal.com)

954-422-9559